



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0415124
Date 29 April 2015

Self Harm

Request:

1. How many individual cases of primary school children self harming have been recorded by you in the last 12 months?

Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act").

Section 12 of the Act exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance with the request exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be made in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the Act.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450.

As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary we do not hold data on every primary school child, only those who are a Child in Need which are not all classed as self harming. Actual incidences of self-harm are not identifiable from our system other than on the note screen. Therefore this would mean looking through a years' worth of observations for over 3000 children.

Since a substantial amount of work will be involved in processing your request as it is currently phrased, I am afraid a fee is payable before we can provide you with the information.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

“(a) determining whether it holds the information,

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

(b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

*(c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,
and*

(d) extracting the information from a document containing it”.

As such I believe that the aggregated time that it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).