



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 041584  
Date            22 April 2015

### ***Child Protection External Spend***

**Request:**

For each financial year, 2013/14 and 2014/15 please let me know, with regard to children who are considered to be or to potentially be in need of help or protection:

1. Which expert witness firms/agencies were used and how much was spent with each one;

With reference to question 1, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this information to you as we believe that S12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to be engaged.

Section 12 of the Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The information you have requested is not currently held in a format that can be readily accessible as it is information that needs to be manually extracted from some 300 paper files. As a result we believe that the exemption is engaged.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). 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,*
- (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”.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

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

2. Which firms/agencies were used to provide assessments of parents or individuals applying for special guardianship orders (including residential/viability/community assessments) and how much was spent with each one;  
We do not use firms/agencies to provide this service. It is provided in-house.

3. Which firms/agencies were used to provide assessment of potential *in-house* foster parents or adopters and how much was spent with each one;  
We utilised Core Asset Children Services for all fostering assessments. The amount spent for 2014-15 was £48k.

4. Which firms/agencies were used to provide independent fostering services and how much was spent with each one;  
We have used Heantun Child Care to provide support services to foster carers. The total was £65k for 2014-15.

5. Which firms/agencies were used to provide independent adoption services and how much was spent with each one;  
30 2013-2014  
29 2014-2015

Adoption placements  
2013-2014

Milton Keynes County Council £27,000  
Warwickshire County Council £43,000  
TACT £27,000  
Rochdale M.B.C. £27,000  
Cabrini Children's Society £47,300  
Mosaic Adoption and Permanency £27,000  
Slough Borough Council £27,000  
Pact x 4 placements £113,400  
Gloucestershire County Council £27,000  
London Borough of Enfield £29,700  
Borough of Poole £27,000  
Angus Council £27,000  
Adoption Matters Northwest £54,000  
Bradford MBC £27,000  
Devon County Council £27,000  
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC £27,000  
SAAFA £43,000  
EALING COUNCIL £29,700 plus London weighting  
BARNADO'S £47,300  
Birmingham City Council £27,000  
CARITAS £27,000

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2014-2015

Southend on Sea L.A. £60,000  
Devon County Council £27,000  
Faith in Families £43,000  
TACT £27,000  
SSAFA £43,000  
BROMLEY ADOPT AGENCY £47,300  
PACT £121,600  
Slough Borough Council £27,000  
Action for Children £72,700  
Derbyshire County Council £27,000  
London Borough Newham £29,700  
Sandwell Council £70,000  
Barnardo's Yorkshire £43,000  
Adoption Matters Northwest £43,000  
Lincolnshire CC. £43,000  
Barnados Adoption Services £47,300  
Northamptonshire adoption £27,000  
Coram Adoption £47,300  
London Borough of Camden £29,700  
Rochdale Borough council £27,000

6. Which firms/agencies were used to provide consultancy services to child protection/children in need teams and how much was spent with each one  
None.

(NB I only want to know about firms offering assistance at professional level, please do not include generic services such as IT support, health and safety etc);

Examples might be a firm that conducted an assessment or review of part of the service, or assisted with performance management, or provided a case file audit.

7. Which firms/agencies were used to provide interim management services and how much was spent with each one;

Liquid Personnel

CAPITA

HCL

Eden Brown

Yoo Recruit

With reference to question 7, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this information to you as we believe that S12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to be engaged.

Section 12 of the Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The information you have requested is not currently recorded in a way that it can be easily broken down into the categories you have

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requested. We believe in order to provide you with this information we would need to manually search each invoice/order for the above firms/agencies to identify if interim management services was part of the overall expenditure.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

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

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

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).

We can however, provide an overall figure for the amounts spent on Agencies above for the last two financial years which we hope you will find helpful.

2013/2014 £2.3 million  
2014/2015 £3.9 million

Please note the figures above are a combined figure for all expenditure in Children’s Services and our Children’s Services consist of the following: Children in Need/Child protection, Looked after Children, Social Inclusion and Play, Children’s Centres and Early Years, Youth Offending, Children’s Commissioning, Service Director, Youth Services.

8. Which firms were used to provide residential children's home services and how much was spent with each one;

2013/14 spend - £2,214,837 – All Cambian Childcare

2014/15 spend projected - £1,828,698 – All Cambian Childcare (costs still being finalised as part of 2014/15 accounts closedown)

We have a block contract provider for four children’s homes with Cambian Childcare.

9. Which firms/agencies were used to provide social worker contractors for defined projects or work that would otherwise be carried out in-house and how much was spent with each one;

None.

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10. Which firms/agencies were used to provide temporary or locum staff (eg for sickness cover) and how much was spent with each one;

Liquid Personnel

CAPITA

HCL

Eden Brown

Yoo Recruit

With reference to question 10, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this information to you as we believe that S12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to be engaged.

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protection, Looked after Children, Social Inclusion and Play, Children's Centres and Early Years, Youth Offending, Children's Commissioning, Service Director, Youth Services.

11. Which firms were used to provide independent reviewing officers and how much was spent with each one.

Badenoch & Clarke  
Entrust  
Semester  
Yoo Recruit

With reference to question 11, I can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this information to you as we believe that S12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to be engaged.

Section 12 of the Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The information you have requested is not currently recorded in a way that it can be easily broken down into the categories you have requested. We believe in order to provide you with this information we would need to manually search each invoice/order for the above firms/agencies to identify if independent reviewing officers was part of the overall expenditure.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 2.5 days of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

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[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

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12. Which firms/agencies were used to provide intervention services to families considered to be "on the edge of care" and how much was spent with each one.  
None.

Please provide separate details and figures for each year.

Where payments were made to social worker contractors/independent social workers as individuals rather than companies please provide names.

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