



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 061534
Date 05 June 2015

Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

Request and response in 'blue':

- a) How many unaccompanied children are looked after by this local authority?

The LA has 5 cases

- b) How many children formerly in this category are now receiving care leaving services from this local authority?

9 case being supported by the LA

- c) How many individuals claiming to be unaccompanied children were deemed to be an age other than their claimed age by this local authority?

In order to provide this information we can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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.

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.

We cannot easily gather this information via a report. In order to determine the information we would need to manually interrogate each individual record and extract information to determine the number of individual claiming to be unaccompanied children deemed to be an age other than their claimed age.

This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

- d) Do children entering at the age of 16 or 17 enter foster care in this local authority?

This will depend on the outcome of the young person's assessment - some do, some may be placed in residential care or supported accommodation

- e) If not in foster care, how many support hours per week does the local authority provide for –

- a) Looked after children aged 16-17?

This will depend on the needs of the individual young person following an assessment.

- b) Care leavers?

As above