



## Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 081518  
Date 05 August 2015

### ***Missing from Care***

#### **Request and response in 'blue':**

Please find below my Freedom of Information Request:

Missing from care

*NB: For each of the questions on children missing (as opposed to incidents of children missing), please give maximum one answer per child, giving the highest period of consecutive days of going missing.*

*Example:*

*Child A goes missing three times in the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, once for 10 days, once for 1 day, once for 27 days. They would therefore be counted as going missing for 7-28 days [answer (c)].*

#### **2014-15**

- Q1) How many **incidents** were there of children in the care of your local authority (looked after children) as of 31 March 2015 who went missing within the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; **29**
  - b) 1-6 days; **23**
  - c) 7-28 days; **0**
  - d) 29 days – 183 days ("6 months"); **2**
  - e) More than 183 days. **0**
- Q2) How many **children** were in the care of your local authority (looked after children) as of 31 March 2015 who went missing within the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; **3**
  - b) 1-6 days; **15**
  - c) 7-28 days; **0**
  - d) 29 days – 183 days ("6 months"); **2**
  - e) More than 183 days. **0**

- Q3) How many **incidents** were there of children in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in a foster care as of 31 March 2015** who went missing within the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; 2
  - b) 1-6 days; 6
  - c) 7-28 days; 0
  - d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 0
  - e) More than 183 days 0.
- Q4) How many **children** were in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in foster care as of 31 March 2015** who went missing within the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; 2
  - b) 1-6 days; 4
  - c) 7-28 days; 0
  - d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 0
  - e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q5) How many **incidents** were there of children in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in a children’s home (“residential care) as of 31 March 2015** who went missing within the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; 27
  - b) 1-6 days; 17
  - c) 7-28 days; 0
  - d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 0
  - e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q6) How many **children** who were in the care of your local authority (looked after children) **and in a children’s home (“residential care”) as of 31 March 2015** who went missing within the year 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; 1
  - b) 1-6 days; 11
  - c) 7-28 days; 0
  - d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 0
  - e) More than 183 days. 0

## 2013-14

- Q7) How many **incidents** were there of children in the care of your local authority (looked after children) as of 31 March 2014 who went missing within the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 for a period of:
- a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; \* Not available

- b) 1-6 days; 27  
c) 7-28 days; 3  
d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 2  
e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q8) How many **children** were in the care of your local authority (looked after children) as of 31 March 2014 and who went missing within the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 for a period of:  
a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; \* Not available  
b) 1-6 days; 16  
c) 7-28 days; 3  
d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 2  
e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q9) How many **incidents** were there of children in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in a foster care as of 31 March 2014** who went missing within the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 for a period of:  
a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; \* Not available  
b) 1-6 days; 5  
c) 7-28 days; 1  
d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 0  
e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q10) How many **children** were in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in foster care as of 31 March 2014** who went missing within the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 for a period of:  
a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; \* Not available  
b) 1-6 days; 2  
c) 7-28 days; 1  
d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 0  
e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q11) How many **incidents** were there of children in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in a children’s home (“residential care) as of 31 March 2014** who went missing within the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 for a period of:  
a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went missing]; \* Not available  
b) 1-6 days; 16  
c) 7-28 days; 2  
d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 1  
e) More than 183 days. 0
- Q12) How many **children** who were in the care of your local authority (looked after children) and **in a children’s home (“residential care”) as of 31 March 2014** who went missing within the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 for a period of:  
a) Less than 24 hours [figure does not include those who never went

- missing]; \* Not available
- b) 1-6 days; 10
  - c) 7-28 days; 2
  - d) 29 days – 183 days (“6 months”); 1
  - e) More than 183 days. 0

\*Not Available

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 18 hours 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.*

The information appertaining to 2013-14, Less than 24 hours is not easily accessible. To get this information would require a full scale look into all the individual files, over 800, and scrutinise the information. This would be a manual exercise taking approximately 10-30 minutes per record to determine information 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).