

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 11151
Date 30 October 2015

Children's Services

Request:

I wish to know under the FOI for the last 12 months to 30th October 2015 -
I refer to any written paper work compiled by social services or any person working
on their behalf.

1) How many parents have in the last 24 month period have complained that social workers reports or statements are inaccurate, misleading or false or any words to the same effect.

[There were 9 complaints that refer to disagreeing with the content of a report.](#)

2) How many times have social workers or managers refused to correct reports or statements?

3) How many times have social workers or managers said they would put letters on file proving reports are inaccurate?

4) How many of the said reports that are inaccurate, misleading or false have been used in court?

5) I have been told that notes of inaccuracies are added to the LA computer system. Should any notes of inaccurate, misleading or false statements or reports be applied on the LA's computer system does these full notes of inaccuracies show up if any other professional prints out or reads data. Do professionals show these notes to courts that the reports that they are giving the courts are proven to be inaccurate.

6. Are their any laws broken by making false reports and if so what? How many social workers have been caught making false reports?

[In answer to questions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 above, 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 \(FOI\).](#)

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

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 to provide you with this information would require every individual file to be read for every child open to social care. We have over 2.000 children open to social care and each file would take approximately 2 hours to extract this information for the time period requested which would take us over the appropriate time limit of 18 hours to:

- “(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”.*