



**UNCLASSIFIED**



**People Directorate**

**Executive Director**  
Brian Walsh  
Coventry City Council  
Civic Centre 1  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RS

Our reference: FOI 20123182  
Date: 20 November 2014

**Please contact:** Sue State  
Direct line 024 7683 1635  
sue.state@coventry.gov.uk

Dear 

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information about Children at risk of sexual exploitation. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested the following information;

**What is the total number of children who were referred this year (2014), or became known, to the council amid concerns that they are, or at some stage have been, at risk of sexual exploitation.**

There are a number of processes within the Local Authority where a risk of Child Sexual Exploitation can be identified. Most of these processes hold paper records and it is not possible to report on particular factors, however we do know that 87 Social Care Assessments identified CSE as a factor between 01/01/14 and 29/09/14, and that 32 children interviewed who had previously gone missing from home were established to be at risk from Child Sexual Exploitation.

Coventry City Council People's Directorate are setting up a team which will be dedicated to working on cases of possible or identified sexual exploitation.

The team will be headed by a Service Manager, who will also manage the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, and will have social work staff and managers as well as a Police Officer and a member of staff from Health.

It will receive information about young people, whether or not they are already known to Children's Social Care or other agencies and will build knowledge on identified cases and themes.

**Please also provide the figures, in the same table, for 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010.**

Information you have requested regarding the same for the years 2010 - 2013 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 it has been established that this information is not held in a reportable format. In order to determine what level of information we hold, a manual trawl would be required through each individual case file to extract the relevant information, a minimum of approximately 3000 children's files for one year.

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. The fee in this case is £25,000 - please see the schedule below explaining how this was calculated. If the actual cost turns out to be less than the estimate, the balance will be returned to you.

<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>CHARGE MADE</b>
COST OF COMPLYING WITH THE REQUEST	£25,000
PHOTOCOPYING	
POSTAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF TRANSMISSION	
VAT (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	£25,000

Payment can also be made using the online payment facility on the [Council web site](#).

To do this, go to [Pay Online](#) and select - **Freedom of Information request**. **Please insert your request reference number (20123182)** in the 'Account' box.

While the legislation allows the Council 20 working days to respond to your request from the date of its receipt, this time limit is suspended until we receive payment.

As soon as we receive your payment we will begin work on your request (please be aware that payments take at least three working days from receipt to clear).

Alternatively, if you do not want to pay online, please make cheques payable to **Coventry City Council** and send to the address given below.

If we do not receive your payment by 9 February 2014, we will consider your request closed and no further action will be taken by the Council.

**c) In the same table, please include the age of the youngest child thought to be at risk of sexual exploitation, for each year.**

One unborn child was to be born into a family where older children were thought to have been or at risk of sexual exploitation.

**d) Separately, and solely for cases in 2014, please provide an anonymised breakdown for each child. Please include as much information of the following as is available. Gender of each child, age of each child, a summary description (or at least a category) of the concerns around sexual exploitation. For being exploited by a family member; exploited in return for alcohol or drugs, involved in sex trade (receiving money or other rewards in return for sexual acts); or victim of child prostitution.**

101 female  
17 male  
1 unborn

Information you have requested regarding the details of each case 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 it has been established that this information is not held in a reportable format. In order to determine what level of information we hold in relation to the details of

each case, a manual trawl would be required through each individual case file to extract the relevant information.

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. The fee in this case is £2,600 - please see the schedule below explaining how this was calculated. If the actual cost turns out to be less than the estimate, the balance will be returned to you.

<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>CHARGE MADE</b>
COST OF COMPLYING WITH THE REQUEST	£2,600
PHOTOCOPYING	
POSTAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF TRANSMISSION	
VAT (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	£2,600

Payment can also be made using the online payment facility on the [Council web site](#).

To do this, go to [Pay Online](#) and select - **Freedom of Information request**. **Please insert your request reference number (20123182)** in the 'Account' box.

While the legislation allows the Council 20 working days to respond to your request from the date of its receipt, this time limit is suspended until we receive payment.

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Alternatively, if you do not want to pay online, please make cheques payable to **Coventry City Council** and send to the address given below.

If we do not receive your payment by 9 February 2014, we will consider your request closed and no further action will be taken by the Council.

If you are unhappy with the outcome or handling of your request you should write to us within 40 working days of the date of this letter:

Information Governance  
Council House, Room 21a  
Lower Ground Floor  
Earl Street, Coventry.  
CV1 5RR  
[infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If having done that you are still dissatisfied, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

**Sue State**  
**Business Support Finance Officer**  
**People Directorate**