



Children's Social Care

Director: John Gregg
People Directorate
Civic Centre 1
Earl Street
Coventry
CV1 5RR

Please contact Jackie Rutherford
Direct line 024 7683 1196
Jackie.rutherford@coventry.gov.uk

12th January 2016

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ00633**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the number of children taken into care.

You have requested the following information:

For the period covering 2009 to present day, the number of children under the age of 18 taken into care by your authority (whether it be by social services or another of your departments) due to fears/reports/evidence of that child being a victim of sexual abuse.

Please provide the figures broken down by year. If cost allows, please provide the age of each child. If cost allows, please also provide a short description of the relation between child and abuser/alleged abuser (i.e. parent? sibling? other relative? foster carer?)

We have estimated that it will cost more than the 'appropriate limit' to consider your request.

Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for a local authority is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

However, if you pay the fee as set out in this notice, your request will be processed. The estimated cost of processing your request is £13,950. In summary it has been established that this information is not held in a reportable format from our Children’s Social Care Management Information system. Therefore, 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,. This charge has been calculated in accordance with Section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations.

The number of children entering care each year is provided in the table below:

| Start Date | End Date | Number |
|------------|----------|--------|
| Apr 2015 | Feb 2016 | 251 |
| Apr 2014 | Mar 2015 | 314 |
| Apr 2013 | Mar 2014 | 334 |
| Apr 2012 | Mar 2013 | 298 |
| Apr 2011 | Mar 2012 | 209 |
| Apr 2010 | Mar 2011 | 196 |

Since 1st November 2014, we have issued proceedings on 182 families which equates to 283 children.

You may find information contained in Coventry’s Children in Need Census statutory return useful to you. Table A3 provides a breakdown of all children in need by primary need at assessment which includes Category N1 - Abuse/Neglect. This information can be accessed from the Department of Education website directly:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-children-in-need>.

Payment can be made via the Council web site. To do this, go to [Pay Online](#), select from the Account Group drop down menu Council & Democracy and Request for Information from the Account Type (it may take a moment for this option to appear). Please put your request reference number in the ‘Account’ box.

If you wish us to continue to process your request you should pay the fee within 3 calendar months by **12th March 2015**. If we do not receive payment of the fee by this date, I will take it that you do not wish to pursue this request and will consider the request closed.

Alternatively it may be possible that you could narrow down the scope of your request, for example, by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to

obtain, including any dates or periods of time relevant to the information required.
Please note though that any reformulated request will be treated as a fresh request.

Alternatively, you may want to look at the information we already publish to see if what you are looking for is already available via the Council's FOI/EIR [Disclosure Log](#); [Publication Scheme](#); [Facts about Coventry](#) or [Open Data](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email: casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Rutherford