



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 7097
Coventry
CV6 9SL

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI670175067

Thank you for your request for information relating to LADO referrals.

You have requested the following information:

1. I would like to know the number of Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) referrals received by your authority (a) in total and (b) about school staff only, for the following financial years.

- 2023-2024 – a) 429 referrals b) 135 subjects of referrals worked at school setting of some kind
- 2022-2023 – a) 281 referrals b) 112 subjects of referrals worked at a school setting of some kind
- 2021-2022 – a) 294 referrals b) 116 subjects of referrals worked at a school setting of some kind
- 2020-2021 – a) 317 referrals b) 104 subjects of referrals worked at a school setting of some kind
- 2019-2020 – a) 396 referrals b) 34 subjects of referrals worked at a school setting of some kind

Please note that the request is not specific about school settings and whether this was solely staff in teaching roles, therefore we have included anyone employed in any way at an education settings ranging from primary, secondary, to extended learning centres, vocational learning venues, faith schools, universities and colleges.

It should be noted that how the LADO has recorded data over the years has evolved and therefore the data above is not necessarily directly comparable data from year to year. Previously we captured anything which is a contact to LADO as a referral to now. For example separating out advice which does not amount to a referral from formal referral forms, and also checks are also now separated out.

2. For referrals about school staff in 2023-2024, could you please provide me with the following:

• The type of organisation of the person who made the referral?

The types of organisations who made the above 135 referrals were vast. These included: anonymous, CAFCASS, internal Children's Services staff across various departments in Coventry City Council, Other Local Authorities, Colleagues from primary, secondary, college and vocational educational settings, health colleagues from a variety of organisations, unknown, category of other, parents, police, public health, recruitment agencies.

• What was the reason given for the referral? If this is recorded by category, please provide the category name.

Reasons for the 135 referrals in 23/24 which related to an individual at an education setting were given as categories. Available categories for referrers, which were used are as follows: emotional, neglect, online, other, physical, sexual, suitability, unknown.

• What was the conclusion of the investigation?

We hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). 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.

This is not held in a format where we can extract the data within 18 hours. To provide detailed conclusions about investigations would require officers extracting details after reading each person's record. This would exceed 18 hours work and therefore this part of your request is refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance