



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

21 October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI742072927

Thank you for your request for information relating to Missing People.

You have requested the following information:

Please release the following information relating to looked after children in the care of your authority for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

1. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that are:

a. Identified as having been trafficked or a victim of modern slavery – including, but not limited to those identified through the National Referral Mechanism.

Please note that our data collection methodology does not include Trafficking or Modern Slavery as identifiers. Instead, we use Child Sexual Exploitation and/or Child Criminal Exploitation and Serious Youth Violence as identifiers. This means that Modern Slavery offences such as forced domestic servitude, forced working in cannabis grows, nail bars, car washes etc, organ harvesting and other forms of modern slavery are experienced by the child in addition to either sexual or criminal exploitation and not identified as a stand-alone form of harm in a reportable format. The Horizon team's bespoke support to children and families encompasses all types of modern slavery and trafficking the child is experiencing.

In response to this question, 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.

We are unable to provide data for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 as it is not available in a reportable format and would require a manual trawl which would exceed 18 hours. To assist, we have therefore provided data as at July 2025.

In July 2025 there were less than 5 children in care identified as victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and or Child Criminal Exploitation.

b. Suspected of having been a victim of trafficking or modern slavery (1), if not included in

As per Question 1a, we are unable to provide data for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024 as it is not available in a reportable format and would require a manual trawl which would exceed 18 hours. We have therefore provided data as at July 2025.

In July 2025 there were 10 Children in Care suspected to be victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and/or Child Criminal Exploitation.

c. Identified as an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) or a separated child (2)

There were 133 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in 2024.

With regards to “Separated child” 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 recorded in a reportable field and will not be able to give a response to this without a manual trawl which will exceed 18 hours work.

d. Identified as an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) or a separated child who have also been identified or suspected of having been a victim of trafficking or modern slavery.

None UASC.

For “Separated child” please refer to the response above for Question 1c.

2. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority:

a. Identified or suspected as having been trafficked/victim of modern slavery and that have gone missing or absent.

During the timescale of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, there were 20 looked after children who were reported missing/absent and who based on our child exploitation identifiers were considered medium/high risk CE.

b. Identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.

During the timescale of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, none of the children were UASC children.

c. Identified as an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) or a separated child who have also been identified or suspected of having been a victim of trafficking or modern slavery, and that have gone missing or absent.

During the timescale of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, none of the children were UASC children.

3. The total number of individual incidents (which could involve the same child on more than one occasion) of looked after children in the care of your authority:

a. Identified or suspected as having been trafficked/victim of modern slavery and that have gone missing or absent.

During the timescale of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, of the 20 looked after children referenced earlier the number of individual missing episodes was 398 however this does not necessarily mean they were exploited on each occasion rather that they were deemed at medium/high risk CE during this time frame.

b. Identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.

None.

For "Separated child" please refer to the response above provided in Question 1c.

4. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that are still missing or absent (including those that subsequently turned 18 without being found) that were identified or suspected as having been trafficked.

Clarification requested – Do they want children that that have been missing since 31st December 2024 not found? - Yes

During the timescale of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, there were none still missing.

5. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that are still missing or absent (including those that subsequently turned 18 without being found) that were identified as an UASC or separated child.

Clarification requested – Do they want children that that have been missing since 31st December 2024 not found? - Yes

During the timescale of 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, there are none still missing.

Q6. For questions 1a, 1b and 2a please provide a breakdown of these numbers by whether the child is British or non-British.

1a- We are unable to report the actual number of children to protect confidentiality as some of the number of children is less/ fewer than 5. This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) as:

(2) personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))”

(3) “Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

*(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.”*

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

1b – We are unable to report the actual number of children to protect confidentiality as some of the number of children is less/ fewer than 5. This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) as:

(2) personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))”

(3) “Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

*(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.”*

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

2a We are unable to report the actual number of children to protect confidentiality as some of the number of children is less/ fewer than 5. This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) as:

(2) personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))”

(3) “Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

*(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.”*

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

7. For question 2, please provide a breakdown of these numbers by type of accommodation missing from

Of the 20 children, 11 were in residential placement.

We are unable to provide any further breakdown on accommodation types missing from to protect

confidentiality as the total number of children is less/ fewer than 5. This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) as:

(2) personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))”

(3) “Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or

(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.”

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

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