



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI758419565**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Family contact restrictions.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to find out from the Local Authority's social services department how many legal court orders and informal contract agreements they have imposed that restrict visitation rights on families of a protected party.

Please answer the following questions:

1. How many applications to the Court of Protection have you made per year, in the past five years (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2025), asking the court to impose contact restrictions on family members of a protected party?

If possible, could this be broken down by category of mental impairment:

- a) a protected party with learning disabilities and autism who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**
- b) a protected party living with dementia who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**
- c) a protected party living with a mental impairment other than a) or b) who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**

To clarify, we are interested in the number of applications made, not the number of people per application.

If you are unable to provide details of applications asking the court to impose contact restrictions for the category of family members, please provide details for all applications asking the court to impose contact restrictions between a protected party and a person(s)

With regards to Question 1, we can advise for Children's Services, in relation to the Court of Protection, we have not applied to restrict family time; only restrictions to their residency, care and treatment. Children's Services are only involved in Court Order family time arrangements when we are care or family proceedings which is not mentioned within the question.

For Adult Social Care, the Council considers that the information is exempt from disclosure under exemption sections 32 and 44 of the FOIA.

The information requested forms part of documents on court records and all cases within the Court of Protection are bound by a Transparency Order containing injunctions preventing parties from disclosing any information relating to a protected person.

Section 32 – Court documents exemption

The information you requested is held only by virtue of being contained in documents filed in, or created by, a court in connection with ongoing or concluded proceedings. This falls within section 32(1) of the FOI Act, which exempts:

- Documents filed with or placed in the custody of a court;
- Documents served for the purposes of court proceedings;

As Section 32 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test when withholding disclosable information.

Section 44 – Prohibition due to contempt of court

Disclosure of this information would or may constitute a contempt of court under section 44(1)(c) of the FOI Act. As a statutory prohibition. This is also an absolute exemption, meaning the information is exempt regardless of any public interest consideration.

2. How many 'working together agreements' (or your equivalent contract which outlines visitation rights for families who have relatives in care, sometimes called 'contract of expectations' or 'family contracts') the local authority made per year, in the past 5 years, (1st April 2020 to 31 March 2025) specifying contact agreements with family members of a protected party?

If possible, could this be broken down by category of mental impairment:

- a) a protected party adult with learning disabilities and autism who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**
- b) a protected party adult living with dementia who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**
- c) a protected party adult living with a mental impairment other than a) or b) who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**
- d) a child with learning disabilities and autism who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family**

For Children's Services - see below:

Category of mental impairment	Number
a) a protected party adult with learning disabilities and autism who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family	0
b) a protected party adult living with dementia who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family	0
c) a protected party adult living with a mental impairment other than a) or b) who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family	0
d) a child with learning disabilities and autism who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family	0

For Adults, 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 may hold some of the information however it is not held in a report format. To locate and collate the information you require, we estimate that it will take an officer more than 18 hours to analyse individual case files to answer this part of your request. This part of your request is therefore 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