



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI789377197**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Hair strand testing.

You have requested the following information:

1. How many hair strand tests have been ordered each year as part of family court and family drug and alcohol court proceedings for the past three years (in which the year runs from 1st April to 31st March).

FDAC Trial for Change:

Three-month overview hair strand test at the start of the Trial for Change - this is of the six panel of drugs Methamphetamine, opiates, cocaine, cannabis amphetamine and benzoylecgonine (moccab). This is paid for by the legal aid agency.

Entered:

23/24 financial year – 55 parents

24/25 financial year 36 parents

25/26 financial year - 48 parents

Total: 139 parents

A three-month segmented hair strand test is completed at the end of the Trial for change, for the same six panel of drugs Methamphetamine, opiates, cocaine, cannabis amphetamine and benzoylecgonine (moccab) This is paid for by the legal aid agency.

Concluded:

23/24 financial year – 45

24/25 financial year – 22

25/26 financial year – 29

Total: 96 parents

2. In how many cases for the past three years (in which the year runs from 1st April to 31st March) when hair strand tests were used in family court and family drug and alcohol court proceedings was a final care order put in place?

In response to Question 2, we confirm we hold the information you have requested. However 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 advise the information you have requested is not held in a reportable format. We estimate that in order to collate the information you have requested, an officer would be required to complete a manual trawl of the data held from the past three years, which would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). Therefore, we confirm this part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

3. How much money has the local authority spent on hair strand testing in family court proceedings each year for the last three years (in which the year runs from 1st April to 31st March)?

We confirm we do not pay for the hair strand and alcohol testing in FDAC. This is paid for by the Legal Aid Agency.

If it is possible please answer question 4 below but only if it's possible to do so within the time/cost constraints of the FOI act

4. How much did the local authority spend on hair strand testing with each testing company in family court cases each year for the last three years (in which the year runs from 1st April to 31st March) Please name each company. For example: Testing company A = £500

In response to Question 4, we confirm the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 12(2) of the Act. Please refer to our response to Question 2.

The supply of information in response to a FOI 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