



Information Governance Team

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04 March 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI795053096**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Children's Social Care Services.

You have requested the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. If this full request goes over the cost limit, please answer the questions in numerical order until the cost limit is reached. Please may you provide me with:

Q1. The total number of child relinquishment requests per year for each of the last ten years.

For the avoidance of doubt, this refers to instances where birth or adoptive parents contacted the local authority requesting that Children's Social Care Services assume care responsibility for a child.

Due to the low numbers involved, we are unable to provide yearly figures. 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).

To assist, the total number of requests between 2016 and 2025 (10 calendar years) is 16.

Q2. For the calendar years 2023 and 2024, and for 2025 if available:

• **The number of referrals received by Children's Social Care Services where domestic abuse was recorded as a factor; and**

If 2025 figures are incomplete, please provide whatever data is currently available and specify the date range that the data covers.

Calendar Years	Count of Referrals
2023	949
2024	1105
2025	1334
Grand Total	3388

Q3. For each of the last five years, please provide either:

• **The annual staff (or ideally just social worker, if these figure exist) sickness or absence rate already held by the authority (for example, percentage of working time lost), or**
• **If no such percentage is routinely recorded, the total number of working days lost to sickness/absence and the total number of contracted working days for Children's Social Care Services staff in each year.**

Please provide whichever of the above is held in recorded form.

The following figures are taken from the DfE's Children's social work workforce return and below is an explanation of how it is calculated from the DfE. More information (and data) can be found here:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-s-social-work-workforce/2024#explore data and files>

The sickness absence rate is calculated as the number of days child and family social workers missed due to sickness absence during the year to 30 September (of those in post at 30 September), divided by the number of FTE child and family social workers in post at 30 September multiplied by 253 days (the number of working days in a non-leap year, taking account of bank holidays).

The rate for a leap year is based on 254 working days.

Agency social workers are not included in the calculation of the sickness absence rate.

N.B: The workers included are all worker's qualified as social workers and registered with Social Work England. This will include some workers who are roles which do not require the role holder to be a registered social worker, but the worker is still registered.

Year (all as at 30 th September)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Sickness absence rate (%)	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.6	4.6*

*Not yet published by DfE.

Q4. The average caseload, and the average number of children (if different) held by qualified social care workers in:

- **Frontline child protection assessment teams; and**
 - **Safeguarding teams**
- for each of the last five years.**

The following figures are calculated using the same method in the DfE's Children's social work workforce return and below is an explanation of how it is calculated from the DfE.

A case is defined as any person allocated to a named social worker, where the work involves child and family social work. Cases may be held by social workers regardless of their role in the organisation and not just by those specifically in a 'case holder' role.

Average caseload at 30 September is calculated as the total number of cases held by FTE child and family social workers, including agency workers, in post divided by the number of FTE child and family social workers, including agency workers, in post that held one or more cases.

The number of cases held doesn't account for the complexity of the cases held and this should be considered when interpreting the caseload figures.

Year (all as at 30 th September)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Average Caseload	16.0	15.1	16.0	15.6	14.9*

*Not yet published by DfE.

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

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