



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

27 July 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI845637529**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Children restrained while in care.

You have requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026:

1. The total number of incidents where physical restraint was used on children under 18 in your care settings.

In response to Question 1, we confirm 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.

Apart from Fostering and Residential Homes, we confirm that we do not hold this information in a reportable format. We estimate that in order to collate the information you have requested, we would be required to manually locate, retrieve and review each individual child's case management record over the past five years, which will 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.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we advise that there has been one recorded incident of physical restraint used on children under 18 in Fostering.

Please find attached the numbers for children's residential homes under Coventry City Council's ownership. Details are recorded for children experiencing physical intervention, which may include/ opposed to 'restraint'.

Please note that physical intervention is only used when a child is at risk of significant harm to themselves or others.

2. The age and a brief description of the circumstances of the youngest child subjected to physical restraint.

With regards to the total numbers recorded relating to children from residential care homes and other care settings, we advise that this part of your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004), as we do not hold this information in a reportable format. Please refer to our response to Question 1.

3. The number of care workers who were suspended or disciplined following inappropriate restraint incidents.

In response to Question 3, we confirm that this part of your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004), as we do not hold information relating to outcomes, such as whether staff were suspended, in a format that can be readily extracted. This information is not ordinarily recorded within our data spreadsheet systems and would require a manual review of each individual case to identify these incidents. Please refer to our response above.

For the purposes of this request, please interpret "care settings" as children's social care settings for looked after children (for example, residential children's homes and foster care placements, whether in house or commissioned). If you hold data at a different but comparable categorisation (for example, only residential settings), please provide it on that basis and explain the scope.

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

Financial Year	Number of incidents where physical interventions used
2021/22	113
2022/23	98
2023/24	90
2024/25	92
2025/26	77