



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 September 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI867216127

Thank you for your request for information relating to Statistics Re LAC.

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.

Some of the information requested is not held in a reportable format. We have estimated that it will exceed 18 hours to answer your request. We therefore advise as per section 12 of the Act. However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we have provided the following:

Please provide the information listed below for your authority for each year from 2014 to 2024.

1. Looked After Children (LAC) – Core Statistics

A. Children starting to be looked after

Number of children who started to be looked after.

Please specify whether figures are recorded by calendar year, financial year, or 31 March snapshot.

B. Children ceasing to be looked after

Please provide totals broken down by:

returned home
adopted
Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs)
residence orders
other permanence outcomes

C. Total number of children looked after

Total number of children looked after as of 31 March each year.

Please see attached for Question 1a to 1c.

D. Calculation method

Please confirm the formula or method used to calculate yearly totals (e.g., raw counts, system reports, or national dataset imports).

2. Mental Health of Looked After Children

A. Diagnosed mental health conditions

Number of LAC with a recorded mental health diagnosis.

If diagnoses are not recorded, please confirm whether you hold:

mental health flags
CAMHS referral records
emotional wellbeing indicators

B. Pre existing vs. developed in care

Of the above:

number diagnosed before entering care
number diagnosed during care

3. Self Harm and Suicide Incidents

Number of LAC with recorded incidents of:

self harm
suicide attempts
suicide deaths

Please include incidents recorded in:

safeguarding reports
incident logs
serious incident notifications

Sections 2 and 3 Exceeds the cost limit under Section 12 of FOIA.

4. Missing / Absconding / Unauthorised Absences

Number of LAC recorded as:

missing
absent without authorisation
repeatedly missing (3+ episodes)

See attached.

5. Complaints, Allegations, and Data Breaches

A. Complaints

Number of complaints made against children's social care, broken down by:

complaints by parents
complaints by looked after children
outcomes (upheld / partially upheld / not upheld)

See attached.

B. Allegations

Number of allegations made against:

foster carers
residential staff
other professionals

See attached.

C. Data breaches

Number of data breaches involving children's social care, including:

a) a data breach had occurred and b) whether this involved Children's social care

2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
*	*	*	*	*	*	57	61	64	49	39

*Breaches in these years were not recorded specifically under Children's Social Care. To identify the number of breaches involving children's social care would require a manual trawl of 807 individual incident folders to assess whether how many involved children's data.

6. Parental Mental Health

Number of assessments where parental mental health was recorded as a factor, and how many resulted in:

child protection plans
children entering care

7. Outcomes for Children Returned Home

Number of children who returned home and how many:

were re referred
were re assessed
re entered care within 12 months

8. Placement Stability

Number of placement moves per child:

1–2 moves

3–5 moves

6+ moves

9. Out of Area Placements

Number of children placed outside your authority area, including distance bands:

0–20 miles

20–50 miles

50+ miles

10. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Number of UASC looked after by your authority.

See attached for Questions 6-10.

11. Recording Systems

Case management system(s) used between 2014–2024 (e.g., LiquidLogic, Mosaic, CareFirst).

LiquidLogic.

Whether any data migration occurred that may affect historical totals.

Exceeds the cost limit under Section 12 of FOIA.

12. Definitions and Counting Rules

Please provide your authority's definitions for:

started to be looked after

ceased to be looked after

placement

episode

missing

unauthorised absence

mental health diagnosis

complaint

allegation

Please confirm whether any definitions changed between 2014–2024.

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