

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

We are asking for research into why children are being removed from parents that have reported suspected abuse (physical / sexual /emotional / neglect). I refer to abuse in these questions as actual or suspicion.

1. Please tell us where the legislation is i.e. children's Act 2004 or Working Together Every Child Matters or any other law or policy that might be used to state that it is abuse to report abuse.

[We are not aware of legislation which states it is abuse to report abuse.](#)

2. How many parents have reported abuse within the last 3 years that involved abuse towards a child from another parent, extended family or friends.

3. Out of the number stated in question 2, how many of these parents that reported abuse had their children removed from their care? Can you please provide a Breakdown in the following

categories.

- i) It is abuse in itself to report abuse.**
- ii) Failure to protect.**
- iii) Risk of possible future emotional harm.**
- iv) Other reasons - please specify.**

4. Out of the number of children removed from parents that have reported abuse, how many of these children were:-

- i) Placed in foster care in hope to return to parent.**
- ii) Placed in foster care in hope to place in adoption.**
- iii) Adopted out.**
- iv) Placed with the parent that was the alleged abuser.**
- v) Placed with parent that has supported the alleged abuser.**

5. Out of the parents reporting abuse that have had their children removed:-

- i) How many of these parents were the only ones to hear disclosures or visually record evidence (i.e witness or bruises)**
- ii) How many How many of these parents where disclosures or visually record evidence (i.e witness or bruises) were also heard or seen by professionals.**
- iii) When social services take a parent to court for reporting abuse, how many social workers have mislead or withheld information from the courts (i.e disclosures to professionals)**
- iv) Is it an offence for social workers or professionals to withhold evidence to the courts and if so what are the laws broken? How many times has this happened?**

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Your request would require the manual trawl of each case referred or reported to Leicester City Council in the last 3 years. We estimate it would take several days to process and collate the data requested.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. We do have a duty to advise and assist you in refining your request under s16 of the Act, therefore, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further assistance.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent

or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager

Information and Support

Leicester City Council

FREEPOST (LE985/33)

New Walk Centre

LEICESTER LE1 6ZG

e-mail: info-requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.