

## **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:**

**I hereby make a Subject Access Request under the Freedom of Information Act:**

**Here are my questions:**

**1) I ask for a list of ALL authorised foster care companies who can place children into foster care/care.**

Leicester City Council is unable to provide a list of ALL authorised foster care companies, as we do not hold such a list, and given the nature of the business area, any such list would only ever be up to date at the time it was compiled.

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

We are able to confirm that Leicester City only places children with foster care companies who have a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection rating.

**2) The amount paid to such companies for the placement of each child.**

The amount paid to such companies for each child cannot be answered fully within a reasonable time frame for responding to FOIA requests.

The costs per child are variable for a number of factors, namely:

- Age of the child
- Needs of the child, e.g. a child with a complex disability or health need would be more expensive
- Whether the child is placed with siblings
- Cost can change when needs have been met and the child is 'easier' to care for
- The cost set by individual companies varies according to their pricing structures

Currently Leicester City Council pays between £630 and £758 per week for placements with independent fostering agencies, making an average payment of £693 per week.

### **3) How many children were placed into care during the last 6 years?**

The figures below relate to the number of children in the care of Leicester City Council at the end of March:

2007: 525  
2008: 511  
2009: 492  
2010: 485  
2011: 500  
2012: 521

Number of looked after children as at 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013: 518

### **4) How much was paid to said companies**

In the financial year 2011 - 2012, the budget spent on paying independent foster care placements was £1,738,103.

The predicted spend for this financial year is £1,905,768.

### **5) Details of all and any relationships between foster care companies and council officials - ie relatives, friends, business associates.**

No relationships exist between foster care companies and commissioning team staff. Should any such relationships develop, then staff would be bound by the usual corporate rules in respect of declaration of interests.

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](mailto: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](http://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.