

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:

1. What is the current name, title, contact email and telephone number for the most appropriate individual in the council able to respond to any queries that independent sector providers may have in regards to commissioning arrangements for looked after children.

[Lorraine White, Service Manager, LAC Commissioning.](#)
lorraine.white@leicester.gov.uk
0116 2995879

2. When sourcing care placements for looked after children, does your council have a policy of always looking exclusively at availability within your in-house provision before considering the wider market or do you adopt a level playing field approach and look at options across in-house and external provision at the same time?

[We always explore in-house resources first and only place in external provision if no in-house resource is available.](#)

3. Could you please forward a copy of the form (blank template), detailing needs and placement requirements that is used to inform providers that you are seeking a placement for an individual child.

[Please see attached document.](#)

4. There are anecdotal reports that LA's across England have a policy of ensuring that, wherever a child is accommodated and there is a need to place the child with an independent provider, contracting officers are regularly being instructed to limit the placements to 28 days. The rationale being that this becomes a 'holding placement' and provides time for a Local Authority to find a vacancy within their own provision. Please could you inform me if (a) this practice exists in your Local Authority and (b) the estimated % of placements made with the Independent sector on this basis.

[If the placement is being commissioned due to a lack of in-house resources, then we commission for 4 weeks initially. Estimated percentage: 75%](#)

5. Please can you confirm your involvement in any regional commissioning arrangements for fostering / residential framework contracts or preferred provider lists.

We are not part of any regional framework and do not have a preferred providers list.

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.