

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:

How many unaccompanied non-UK children (under the age of 18) having arrived in the UK, are currently in the care of Leicester County Council? Please provide figures for this year as well as for the years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. By 'care', please include both council care homes and council-arranged foster care.

For the same period, please confirm the number of these children who absconded, disappeared or otherwise left the Council's care without the Council's knowledge, and who remain unaccounted for.

<u>Summary of UASC (under 18) in care</u>				
Year	Under 18's UASC in care	No. in Council Care Homes	No. in Council-arranged Foster Care	No. of children who absconded / disappeared / left Council care & remain unaccounted for
2006	29	13	13	2
2007	18	2	14	2
2008	13	3	7	1
2009	9	1	6	0
2010	10	0	9	0
2011	9	1	5	0
2012	4	0	2	0

Please note; some young people were also placed in supported accommodation hence the discrepancy between the number of under 18's and the total when you add the foster and residential placement figures together.

The Council does not hold this information for 2005. 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.

From 2012 onwards cases involving Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children were not dealt with by a specific team and were open to caseworkers across the City. Therefore, the information given for 2012 is a partial figure only. To provide the full figure for 2012 would involve many hours of work to identify the relevant cases. Across fieldwork we have between 1500 and 2000

open cases, many may involve children from abroad and could involve separated children. All open cases would need to be considered in order to identify the cohort; we would then need to drill down into any cases identified to gather the information requested.

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.

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.

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.