

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide copies of the following records for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and up to the date of this request in 2013:

- 1. How many babies* have been removed from families as a result of care orders falling under section 31 of the Children Act (1989) and how many were subject to permanent removal?**
- 2. How many section 31 orders were based on what is known as "shaken baby" (Non-Accidental Head Injury [NAHI]) cases?**
- 3. In how many instances were subsequent children born into the same family removed as a result of section 31 orders and how many were subject to permanent removal?**
- 4. How many orders for permanent removal were granted in the cases of children removed in the scenarios described in 1 and 3?**

*** For the purposes of this request please understand 'babies' to mean children under the age of two. However, if the most easily recoverable data is instead stored in a slightly larger age range, such as under 3, then I would be happy to receive the records in that format.**

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.

Across fieldwork we have between 1500 and 1800 open cases, some may involve children who have been removed from families as a result of care orders under Section 31 of the Children Act. In order to answer your request all open cases would need to be considered in order to identify the cohort; we would then need to drill down into each record identified in order to gather the case specific information you've 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.

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.