

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. How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) are the local authority responsible for? Please provide information by year for 2011, 2012, 2013.**

2011 – 8 / 2012 – 8 / 2013 – 5

- 2. How much money was provided by the Home Office each year (2011, 2012, 2013) to support unaccompanied minors, or what was the budget for supporting UASCs, how much was spent?**

There is no formal budget for supporting UASC, the grant due from the Home Office is dependent on the number of valid cases during the year. The national rate paid is either £95.00 per night per case for under 16 year olds or £71.00 per night for over 16 year olds (up to the age of 18).

Expenditure incurred on financial year basis is as follows:

2011-12 – £250,188 (Income received from Home Office £113,384)

2012-13 – £162,897 (Income received from Home Office £76,822)

2013-14 (estimate) – £174,102 (income due from Home Office £62,835)

- 3. How many former relevant children (i.e. unaccompanied asylum seeking children between the ages of 18-21 years) is the local authority responsible for?**

Currently we are supporting total 7 former relevant children (i.e. unaccompanied asylum seeking children between the ages of 18-21 years)

- 4. How many former UASC received leaving care support for each of the past three years? How much did this amount to?**

In total, 15 Former UASCs received Leaving Care Support for each of the past three years. We are not able to provide the cost involved as this would require the manual trawl of each young person's record to establish what support was provided to them over the period in question.

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

- 5. How many appeal rights exhausted post-18 unaccompanied asylum seeking children were supported for each of the past three years?**

None

- 6. In each of the following years (2011, 2012, 2013), how many times did the local authority share information with the Home Office with information on the individual case of a UASC child, (e.g. passing on information about unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the the LA's care)?**

We have a legal duty to alert the Home Office to a new UASC and it is necessary that they are registered with the Home Office in order to claim Asylum. Therefore, in every case we share basic information with the Home Office. We do not share the full age assessment of any UASC but only the conclusion of the age assessment. In some cases we may be asked by solicitors to provide a letter to the UK Border Agency in support of an appeal to state our involvement and outline what the young person has been doing in college or regarding health concerns. We do not separately record this figure so to answer your request would require the manual trawl of all social care cases dating back to 2011.

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.

- 7. Does the Local Authority have a written policy for sharing case information about asylum seeking children with the Home Office. Please provide a copy of this policy.**

No. We provide only the information required to register that a new UASC has arrived and to register their Asylum claim and address.

- 8. How many children (under 18 years old) are in Local Authority care because one or both their parents are in immigration detention. Please provide the figures of total numbers for each year 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and number at 17th Jan 2014.**

None

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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.