

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 Merton compliant age assessments has the local authority carried out on asylum seeking children who have had their ages disputed? Please provide data for each of the past three years.**

None

- 2. How many Merton compliant age assessments has the local authority carried out on unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have had their ages disputed? Please provide data for each of the past three years.**

One in the last three years.

- 3. What was the outcome of these age assessment?**

Currently being undertaken so no outcome available at present.

- 4. How many age assessments were challenged each year by a. the Home Office, b. the person in question at judicial review?**

None

How much has the local authority spent on court cases related to age assessments for each of the past 5 years? Please break down the amount given, for example, in compensation and the amount spent on legal costs.

There is no specific budget for cases relating to age assessments; therefore, we are not able to provide the costs involved. This would require the manual trawl of the legal services ledger for the 5 years in question, trying to establish whether payments made related to an age assessment case.

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 much does performing a Merton compliant age assessment cost (average cost)?

This is carried out by Social Workers in house as part of the Looked After Children's Service, therefore; the Council does not hold this information. 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.

6. How much has the local authority spent on age assessments in each of the past three years?

This is carried out by Social Workers in house as part of the Looked After Children's Service, therefore; the Council does not hold this information. 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.

7. How many UASCs have gone missing/ lost contact in 2011, 2012, 2013 and what were their nationalities? (This will be aggregated with other council's replies so there will not be any possibility of identifying the child).

From the figures I have the following UASC went missing/lost contact:
2011 - 0
2012 - 0
2013 – 2 (1x Afghani & 1x Nigerian)

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.