

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:

There is a continuing debate in Parliament concerning the question of new powers for social workers to gain access to potential adult victims of abuse in situations where a third party is preventing that access and in some way compromising a person's autonomy; in other words, their ability to exercise their will freely.

In this context will you please provide the following information if this is possible.

- 1. On how many occasions during the past 12 months have social work staff been denied access by a third party to a vulnerable adult when investigating concerns relating to adult abuse, and consequently were unable to gain entry?**
- 2. In those situations, on how many occasions was it assessed that the failure to gain entry was due to the social work staff not fully utilising existing powers of entry?**

Cases of this nature are managed by Leicester City Council's front line staff with management oversight. As an authority however, we do not capture statistics on such cases.

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request where they estimate that the cost of compliance will be more than the appropriate limit of £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.

There are many open cases across Adult Social Care fieldwork, some of which may involve vulnerable adults. 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.