

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 can you tell me how many cases of smacking children the social services department has investigated in 2014 and what age and ethnicity the children were and what action, if any, was taken. ie the children were removed and taken into care, and also if the police investigated.

Please can you repeat this for 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

To clarify when I say smacking children, I mean where parents have hit their children to chastise them.

Children are subject to investigation if it is believed that they have suffered /are suffering significant harm. The harm categories are, physical, sexual, neglect and emotional. Smacking would fall under physical abuse initially, however, smacking children is not an illegal act in this country on its own, what is illegal is if it is assessed as being abusive or causing injury. Therefore, we cannot report on how many incidents of 'smacking' have been investigated. We would investigate an allegation or injury that may or may not be related to smacking. The Council does not hold this information. 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.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

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 may also seek independent advice from 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 requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.