

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:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) in relation to the fostering service provision of your Local Authority:
Foster Carer Statistics

1. The number of currently approved foster carers;
247
2. The number of foster carers approved during 2009, 2010, and 2011. A year is from April 1st to March 31st (e.g. 2009 = 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010).
2009 = 76
2010 = 80
2011 = 84
3. The number of foster carers who were deregistered/resigned during 2009, 2010, and 2011, including reasons for de-registration/resignation (e.g. practice issues; retirement; transfer to IFA etc.). A year is from April 1st to March 31st (e.g. 2009 = 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010).

2009 = 36
31 - Retired
2 - Safeguarding
2 - Adopted
1 - Became a kinship carer

2010 = 32
17 - Retired
5 - Ill health
2 - Moved away
4 - Adoption
2 - Separated
1 - Transferred to IFA

2011 = 36
15 - Retired
11 - Separation
6 - Safeguarding
2 - Ill health
1 - Transfer to other L.A.

Foster Children Statistics

4. The number of current looked after children;
As at 31st March 2012 – 523
5. The number of children and young people currently placed with local authority foster carers;
Foster carers 303

6. **The number of children and young people currently placed with IFA (Independent Fostering Agencies);**
48
7. **The number of looked after children who left placements because of adoption during 2009, 2010, and 2011. A year is from April 1st to March 31st (e.g. 2009 = 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010).**
2009 = 26
2010 = 25
2011 = 21
8. **The number of looked after children who left placements because of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) during 2009, 2010, and 2011. A year is from April 1st to March 31st (e.g. 2009 = 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010).**

This information is not routinely recorded on our database and would require the manual trawl of all looked after children's records, some 523. 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.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. We have a duty to advise and assist you in refining your request under s16 of the Act; please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further help.

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: FOIA@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

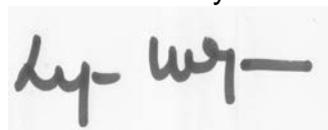
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lynn Wyeth

Information Governance Manager