

FOI 1636

05.05.2023

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Please find attached a survey asking for basic information on the number of people subject to immigration control and with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) that have been supported financially and/or provided with accommodation by the Southern Trust under The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972.**

**Background**

**The research aims to establish an authoritative evidence base on differing social care around No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and the implications for the wellbeing of vulnerable adults with care needs and families, and to inform future policy and practice at national and local levels. The research will evidence the differing ways in which services are organised by local authorities, the financial burden that supporting people with NRPF places on local trusts' budgets and will help social care teams to better understand their own services and the needs of service users in a broader national context. The research will be the first comprehensive overview of social care provision around NRPF across the UK and if we are able to gather data from every social care team in the UK, we will be able to demonstrate the significant number of people with NRPF being supported by social care teams across the UK and how much this is costing in total.**

**Some tips on collating the information are provided below:**

- Please consider the likely areas where data on financial spend (i.e. accommodation and subsistence) for adults with care and support needs and families with NRPF will be held:**
  - o Finance officers will be able to help identify spend associated with accommodation and subsistence provision and may be monitoring this additional cost for people with NRPF supported by your trust.**



- o **Service leads / NRPF panels may maintain a list of these complex and costly cases that are referred, assessed and supported by your service area.**
- o **Individual social workers / case workers may hold responsibility for coordinating cases between teams and will be able to help compile information.**
- o **Information about referrals into social services from a housing department when vulnerable adults or families are not eligible for homelessness assistance may already be maintained.**
- **Making the above enquiries may benefit your trust by helping to coordinate services for residents who have looked to social services for financial assistance because of not being able to access benefits or housing.**

Response:

This information is not centrally collated and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as the Southern Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours or more in determining whether we hold the information locating retrieving and extracting the information from individual cases and files.

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