

FOI 2489

28/06/24

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Request:

Q1. The number of children who went missing from children's residential care ran by the Trust in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Can the data be categorised in calendar years please.

Response 1:

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of service user records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of departments it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Q2. The number of those children given in the response to question 1) who were deemed at risk of criminal exploitation in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Can the data be categorised in calendar years please.

Response:

Information not held.

Q3. The youngest age of a child who went missing from residential care ran by the Trust in 2023, how long they were missing and their gender.

Response 3:

The Trust has a legal duty to protect service user confidentiality and cannot provide information on children who have gone missing from children's homes as this level of detail could lead to the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the possibility that there may be other information already in the public domain relating to any child missing from a children's home. That information may have been through appeals for information to the public via the media or other platforms. In

addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Q4.The longest amount of time a child was missing from residential care ran by the Trust in 2023, their age and gender.

Response Q4:

The Trust has a legal duty to protect service user confidentiality and cannot provide information on children who have gone missing from children's homes as this level of detail could lead to the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the possibility that there may be other information already in the public domain relating to any child missing from a children's home. That information may have been through appeals for information to the public via the media or other platforms. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

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