

FOI 2589

6th September 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1.

From what date did the Trust commence their post adoption services, in particular, their reunion services?

Response:

The Southern Trust commenced Post Adoption services in respect of adoptees and birth parents in 1994.

A range of services were available for adoptees and birth parents since that time including counselling, access to information in respect of the adoption when relevant staff would have facilitated adoption reunions.

Question 2.

On what date/ year was the first documented reunion between birthparents/family and adoptee undertaken by the Trust?

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of 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.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no expectation that records would be used in this way.

Question 3.

How many reunions have the Trust undertaken since the commencement of their post adoption service?

Response:

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of 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.

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