

Request

How many children did you take into care (either interim or full) in the last financial year 2021/22 where the child's proximity to a dog was cited as a factor in the care proceedings?

For each child please state if the issue surrounded either the **(a)** potential danger of a dog attack, **(b)** the hygiene issues of living in proximity to a dog or **(c)** both (a) and (b) and (d) the breed of dog involved.

Response

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf.

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

The number of children commencing care with either an interim or full care order totals 97 (97 Interim, 0 Full). To extract the requested information would require a manual inspection of the care orders. It would take a minimum 15 minutes to search each record which would take over 24 hours – far exceeding the officer finding time stipulated in the act.