

REQUEST	14183 - Financial support	RESPONSE														
	<p>I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I understand you have 20 working days in which to reply.</p> <p>1. For each of the financial years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 (to date)</p> <p>a) How many requests were made for financial support in cash or kind under section 17 (6) of the Children Act?</p> <p>b) How many requests were granted for financial support in cash or kind under section 17(6) of the Children Act?</p> <p>c) For each financial year what the total monetary value of the support provided in cash or kind under section 17 (6) of the Children Act?</p> <p>2. For each of the financial years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 (to date)</p> <p>- What was the total number of children in the care of your authority?</p>	<p><i>Questions 1(a) &amp; b)</i> - Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 200 (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</p> <p>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 website from this link : <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf</a></p> <p>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 the FoIA. I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.</p> <p>This information is not recorded in a reportable format. This would involve looking at each individual request for financial support over the years referred to and would take over the 18 hours finding time.</p> <p>c)     2017/18 £206,663                  2018/19 £240,264                  2019/20 £299,708                  2020/21 £278,523                  2021/22 £395,910                  2022/23 to date £276,280</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="878 1472 1469 1755"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. Children looked after in the year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17/18</td> <td>625</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18/19</td> <td>628</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19/20</td> <td>656</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/21</td> <td>784</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/22</td> <td>833</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22/23</td> <td>736</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	No. Children looked after in the year	17/18	625	18/19	628	19/20	656	20/21	784	21/22	833	22/23	736
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3. For each of the financial years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 (to date):

- How many approved foster carers were registered with your local authority?  
(For clarity, by approved foster carers I am looking for the number of people who have completed all the checks and training and are approved to carry out fostering)

Please note, I would be grateful if you could provide annual breakdowns for the data requested preferably in an Excel spreadsheet.

Financial Year	Approved Households
17/18	187
18/19	187
19/20	180
20/21	183
21/22	188
22/23	190