

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with the following:

- 1) For each of the last four financial years and the current year to date, how many Looked After Children (LAC) were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children? Please break down the number by year. For clarity, please provide the total number of such children placed into care (LAC) during that year.
- 2) For each of the last four financial years and the current year to date, on how many occasions did Looked After Children who were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children go missing?
- 3) How many of these unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC went missing and did not return? Please break down by year.
- 4a) How many LAC (in total, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC) were abducted while in the care of the authority over this entire period?
- 4b) How many of these were known to be unaccompanied asylum-seeking LAC?
- 4c) If known, please provide the name of the provider where most children have gone missing but not returned?
- 4d) Where detailed, please provide descriptions of any abductions (e.g. child abducted by car outside a children's home) and the age of the child.

Please see attached excel spreadsheet for our response.

4)

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. We had 1,456 children who were looked after in that period and it would take over 121 hours to look at each case, using a minimum of 5 minutes per case.