

## Request

I am writing to you under the FoI Act to request the following information.

1. The number of complains made to you regarding child safeguarding over the past 5 years.
2. The number of these complaints which have been dismissed.
3. The number of complaints which have dismissed where
  - a. the complaint was vexatious or
  - b. no evidence was offered in support of the complaint.

*Refers to any case where the authority received communication about a named individual making allegations of child abuse, or raising concerns about a named individuals treatment of a child.*

## Response

The requested information is not held in a readily 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](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 new contacts between February and December for 2023 are 1590 contacts with a source of Individual, using five minutes as a minimum it would take over 132 hours finding time. This request is asking for 5 years' worth of data therefore the final number would be considerably higher.

The estimate of 5 minutes per case is the minimum as it could take longer depending on how the case has progressed to obtain what the requestor is asking.