

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following pieces of information.

If providing any of the pieces of information would exceed the cost limit set out in the Act, I would like you to continue to respond to the other items being asked. Please redact any personal details if necessary.

For the purpose of these questions, 'sex' refers to a child's biological sex, whereas gender refers to perceived gender identity that a person may consider they have, that may or may not match their biological sex.

Please provide any information that you hold in relation to the questions below:

1. Information relating to the total number of Looked After Children in your care 720 as 04/07/2024
  
2. Information relating to the number of Looked After Children in your care currently who have expressed that they may be a different gender to their sex or expressed a wish to change their gender. I would like to know:
  - a. The total number of such children

In addition, if you can provide the information below without identifying children, I would also like to know:

- b. The number of such children aged 10 and under
  
- c. The number of such children who are:
  - i. Biologically male; i.e. their sex at birth was male
  - ii. Biologically female; i.e. their sex at birth was female

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](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.

This information is not recorded in a reportable format and to look at 720 records would exceed 18 hours estimating a minimum of 5 minutes per record.

3. Information relating to the number of Looked After Children in your care who have been referred to an NHS Service in the last 48 months due to their expression of gender dysphoria, gender incongruence, or the belief that their gender identity is different to their sex.

See response at Q2

4. Documents relating to any training or resources you have used from an external provider (charity or commercial organisation) on gender identity, sex and sexuality, or transition in the last 48 months.

a. If training has been provided, please provide details of the organisations who provided the training, the date, and the cost to the Local Authority.

We commissioned Paul Fairweather on 30/11/2023 at a cost of £200.

5. A copy of all your policies relating to transgender or gender questioning Looked After Children.

We do not currently have any policies relating to transgender or gender questioning Looked After Children

6. Who, if anyone, would the Local Authority consult before allowing a Looked After Child to socially transition (i.e. identify as a different gender to their sex). Please name all relevant roles.

This would be discussed as part of the care planning process with multi agency meetings including health professionals. A separate case management discussion and consultation would also be held with the head of service, before allowing a Looked After child to socially transition.

7. Whether you are a member of any Stonewall schemes including their "Diversity Champion" scheme

No, we are not a member of any Stonewall scheme.

a. Whether you have been a member of any Stonewall schemes in the last 48 months.

b. Any application you have made to Stonewall to be a "Stonewall Diversity Champion" or to be included on Stonewall's "Workplace Equality Index".