



REQUEST 17762

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding reported assaults in adult social care and children's services including homes within the Wigan borough.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

1. The total number of reported assaults (both sexual and physical) in adult social care and also children's services including homes and foster carers in Wigan borough from 1st January 2015, to 14th March, 2025.
2. Of these reported assaults, how many involved police action or were referred to the police for further investigation.

If possible, please provide this information in a breakdown by year.

RESPONSE

Children's

LADO records go back to May 2017.

From May 2017 to 14.03.2025 the total number of reported of physical and sexual assaults within homes (residential, foster, adopter and private) is 186.

2 of these allegations took place in a private home.

103 of these allegations had police involvement.

2 of these cases took place in a private home

Adults

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.

This would consist of a desktop review of every safeguarding alert (15 mins per review as a low bar estimate) and we have thousands of alerts per annum. This exceeds the 18-hour limit stipulated in the Act.