



REQUEST 17890

1. Please confirm whether your local authority has issued/commenced a Section 47 enquiry or investigation as per the Children's Act of 1989 concerning a child and/or their parents/guardian in relation to overseas access to puberty blockers since May 2024.
2. If yes, please list the total number of Section 47 investigations or enquiries concerning overseas access to puberty blockers, since May 2024.

I am aware that there may be anonymity concerns. In cases where too few Section 47 orders have been issued, for example <5, please simply state whether they have been issued or not as per question (1)

3. If yes to question (1), where possible, please confirm whether the child was:
 - a. Aged 0-10
 - b. Aged 11 or above
4. Please confirm whether your local authority has issued/commenced a Section 47 enquiry or investigation as per the Children's Act of 1989 concerning a child and/or their parents/guardian in relation to access to puberty blockers in the UK since May 2024.
5. If yes, please list the total number of Section 47 investigation or enquiries concerning access to puberty blockers in the UK, since May 2024:

I am aware that there may be anonymity concerns. In cases where too few Section 47 orders have been issued, for example <5, please simply state whether they have been issued or not as per question (4)

6. If yes to question (4), where possible, please confirm whether the child was:
 - a. Aged 0-10
 - b. Aged 11 or above

RESPONSE

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/ukxi_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

From May 2024 up the end of March 2025, there were 1573 Section 47's recorded, using a minimum of 5 minutes per case this would take over 131 hours finding time. This exceeds the time limit stipulated in the Act.