

From: Freedom of Information Requests
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 8:58 AM
To:
Subject: FOI request - Response

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 13 July 2024 for information about boarding school placements for children in care. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request

1. How many of your children in care "Looked After Children", in both number and percentage, are currently in mainstream boarding school placements?
2. How many of your children in care "Looked After Children", in both number and percentage, are currently in Special Educational Needs boarding school placements?
3. What procedure (if any) do you have to consult children in care "Looked After Children" about the option of a boarding school placement 3a. What record (if any) do you have of the number of children in care "Looked After Children" - in both number and percentage - who were asked about such an option, in the financial year 2023/24? How many of them expressed a wish to proceed with it?
4. How many informal visits that you arranged, to mainstream boarding schools, for children in care "Looked After Children" took place in the financial year 2023/24?
5. How many informal visits that you arranged, to SEN boarding schools, for children in care "Looked After Children" took place in the financial year 2023/24?

Response

Notice under Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 - REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

Decision:

After carefully considering your request for information the Council has decided that to respond to your request would exceed the appropriate limit as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Basis for decision:

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act allows for a request for information to be refused where the cost of supplying this information exceeds the appropriate limit. After carefully considering your request for information the Council has decided that to respond to your request would exceed the appropriate limit as defined in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The regulations allow a request for information to be refused where the cost of supplying this information exceeds £450 (or 18 hours of officer time).

Why does the exemption apply in this case?

The cost limit applies in this case because the City of Doncaster Council does not hold a central record the information requested for questions 3a, 4 and 5. There is no formal, discrete procedure for exploring this so a child may be consulted on this which may lead to a visit, however in order to determine this information all children in care cases will need to be reviewed. It is estimated that each case will require a 15 minute investigation. As details of 509 cases require review in order to determine this information this would result in a total time of approximately 127 hours which would exceed the time limit.

In order for us to reconsider your request we ask that you make your request more specific by narrowing down the scope of your request. For example, removal of questions 3a, 4 and 5.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Many thanks
Ellen Dook

Information Governance Officer
Corporate Resources
City of Doncaster Council

Phone 01302 736745

Address Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU Website www.doncaster.gov.uk