

From: Freedom of Information Requests

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 4:25 PM

To:

Subject: FOI Response

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 27 June 2024 for information about nursery safeguarding. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

Request

Please provide the following information concerning abuse or neglect in nurseries for each of the last five financial years, including 2023/24.

1. Please provide a list of all safeguarding referrals (typically known as section 47 referrals) relating to alleged abuse or neglect in nurseries for each year. Please provide the following break down for each one:

a) Year

b) Nature of abuse i.e. neglect/ physical abuse/ sexual abuse

c) Brief description of allegation i.e. child was struck on the head by staff member recorded on CCTV

d) Whether there was a LADO referral or not

e) Outcome of investigation into incident (make clear who carried it out): i.e. substantiated

f) Whether there was a complex abuse investigation (typically carried out by the local authority and police)

2. Please provide the highest number of allegations received in total in relation to an individual nursery over the entire period and detail how many were substantiated over the entire period (i.e. not year by year).

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 of Section 47 referrals by location type, therefore in order to determine whether the referral relates to a nursery each case will need to be reviewed. It is estimated that each case will require a 15 minute investigation. In the first 6 months of 2024 3961 referrals were received therefore, using this as an example, in order to determine this information this would result in a total time of

approximately 990 hours which would exceed the time limit. If this was extended to the 5 year period requested the hours would increase.

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, Section 47 referrals relating to all locations, or Section 47 referrals by age range regardless of location, or LADO referrals relating to nurseries.

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