



**Information Governance Team**

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Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: REQ06972**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Child Care legal professionals.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. How many Child Care legal professionals (or equivalent) are employed by the Council?**
- 2. Does the Council have a specific risk assessment for legal employees undertaking child care work which deals with the potential harm of being exposed to vicarious trauma?**
- 3. On average how many child care case files do the legal professionals have?**
- 4. What policies (if any) are in place which highlight the risk of Council employees experiencing ill health as a result of exposure to vicarious trauma?**
- 5. What steps has the Council implemented to minimise the risk to its employees' health as a result of being exposed to vicarious trauma?**
- 6. Within the last 6 years how many legal professionals working in child care have submitted sick notes for stress or other mental health condition, citing their work as a contributing factor?**

**7. Within the last 6 years, how many working days have been lost by child care Solicitors or similar legal professionals, citing stress or other mental health condition as a contributing factor for their absence?**

**8. For the last 6 years, please advise as to the number of claims made against the Council for negligence and/or breach of the Human Rights Act in relation to deprivation of liberty and/or failure to act or remove children?**

We hold the information which you have asked for but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

We can confirm that for Question 6, the data is not held centrally or in an existing management report. In order to answer this part of your request, we will need to conduct a manual trawl through all employee records for our Legal department. Due to the number of records to search, this will exceed 18 hours.

Your request has therefore been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we can confirm the following:

- We currently have a total of 30 FTE staff (3 Team Leaders, 17 lawyers, and 10 Senior Legal Officers/ Legal Officers) which includes one vacancy that has been recruited to
- We also have one trainee solicitor currently working in child care
- All staff have regular supervision sessions enabling any concerns to be shared with team leaders and access to counselling services if needed
- Employees have access to face to face and telephone counselling, as well as debriefing sessions and support groups
- Legal professionals hold on average 15.4 case files which are live in the court arena. This figure does not include Legal Professionals who work on Pre-proceedings cases or Private Law cases

Furthermore, we confirm that we hold data for Questions 7 from 2016 onwards and Question 8 from 2017 onwards. If you wish to reformulate your request, then please note that this will be treated as a fresh request.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours sincerely

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