

Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO BOX 15
Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone : 024 7697 5408

19 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ08051**

Thank you for your request for information relating to missing looked after children.

You have requested the following information:

1. The number of Looked After Children (children in care) who have gone missing for at least a week since March 23rd, 2020 (when the UK went into its first lockdown)?

Eight.

2. The number of Looked After Children who went missing for over a month since March 23rd, 2020?

Nil.

3. The number of Looked After children who went missing for over a week since March 23rd, 2020 who have not been not found or returned? If no-one has not returned, or been found, please state the longest period a LAC went missing. Please state the month they went missing and the ages of all those going missing in any such cases.

One child went missing at the age of 16 during February 2021.

- 4. The number of occasions Looked After children are believed to have been:**
 - a. Sexually abused or exploited (including grooming where logged)**
 - b. Criminally exploited (e.g. involved in county lines) while missing from care since March 23rd, 2020?**
- 5. The number of children who are believed to have been sexually abused or exploited (including grooming where logged) on multiple occasions (at least two) while missing from care since March 23rd, 2020?**

For Questions 4 to 5, 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.

This is because the information is held in a nonreportable format, which would require an officer to manually review the case files on each child's record to identify if the child had been sexually abused or criminally exploited once or on multiple occasions whilst missing. Your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

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

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.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance