



## Information Governance Team

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20 August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**  
**Request ID: FOI354052705**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Looked after children.

You have requested the following information:

**1. How many children have become LAC in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

See table below:

Year	Numbers of children who have become looked after
2019-20	263
2018-19	297
2017-18	255
2016-17	285
2015-16	270
2014-15	315
2013-14	335
2012-13	298
2011-12	262
2010-11	234

We can confirm that we report these figures to the Department of Education on a financial year basis. The 2020-21 information will be available later this year and therefore we are advising you as per Section 22 of the Act.

**2. How many LAC children are diagnosed with mental health issues in any category in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

We hold the information which you have asked for but we have estimated that the cost of meeting this part of 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.

Whilst we record assessment factors which include mental health, and record children's disabilities, any recording of medical diagnoses would be recorded in case notes. To collate the data would involve a manual trawl of at least 3,673 child records which will exceed 18 hours. This part of your request has therefore been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

**3. How many LAC children have tried or succeeded in committing suicide in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

The succeeded figure is nil.

To identify any children in care who attempted suicide would involve a manual trawl of case notes of at least 3673 children; please refer to the response provided for Question 2 for the engagement of Section 12.

**4. How many parents of LAC, meaning the parents they lived with before becoming LAC have been since diagnosed with mental health issues in any category in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

**5. How many parents of LAC, using the above definition have committed suicide each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

For Questions 4 and 5, to identify this information would require a manual trawl of at least 3,673 child records - please refer to response provided for Question 2 (Section 12).

**6. How many complaints have been filed against child social services in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

The total number of complaints to Children's Services per year April 1st-March 31st 2011-2021 are as follows-

2011-12: 116  
2012-13: 133  
2013-14: 102  
2014-15: 117  
2015-16: 133  
2016-17: 179  
2018-19: 142  
2019-20: 212  
2020-21: 157

**7. How many LAC have run away or disappeared in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

Following clarification, you wanted the number of looked after children with missing episodes. Please see the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Looked after children with one or more missing episodes</b>
2010-11	84
2011-12	89
2012-13	67
2013-14	96
2014-15	67
2015-16	84
2016-17	110
2017-18	132
2018-19	120
2019-20	111

**8. How many LAC have died from any cause in your area each calendar year for the past 10 years.**

Please see the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Deaths</b>
2011	1
2015	1
2020	1

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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 [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**