



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI599648602

Thank you for your request for information relating to Referrals to LADO.

You have requested the following information:

1. Please can you provide figures for how many referrals schools in your local authority have made to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) so far this year and in each of the previous five financial years.

• If possible, please provide a breakdown of the number of referrals from each school phase (for instance, primary schools, secondary schools, SEND schools and alternative provision) for each of these years.

2. LADOs should be notified when there is concern a professional or a person who works with children has: “Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children; Behaved in a way in their personal life that raises safeguarding concerns.” As such, for each referral that falls within the requested rate range, please provide detail of which of the above concerns was raised in relation to each case if possible. If you are able to provide more detail about the nature of each allegation, please do so.

3. For each case, please let me know if the allegation was serious enough to meet the threshold of harm for an ASV (allegation against staff or volunteers) meeting and/or

involving the police. Please also let me know how many cases were not viewed as serious enough to meet this threshold but still required the agency to undertake an internal investigation. If you are not able to provide this level of detail on each case, can you please provide it as a total for each year, preferably separated by school type?

4. LADOs must operate within the Department for Education's Keeping children safe in education statutory guidance, which states the following definitions should be used when determining the outcome of allegation investigations:

- o Substantiated: there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation;**
- o Malicious: there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive;**
- o False: there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation;**
- o Unsubstantiated: there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence;**
- o Unfounded: to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made.**

• For each case, please let me know which of the above outcomes was recorded. If cases are ongoing, please say so. As stated above, if you are not able to provide this level of detail on each individual case, can you please provide it as a total for each year, preferably separated by school type?

5. For each year I've requested data on, can you please let me know the overall number of referrals from all sources (and if possible provide a breakdown of what the main referral sources where?)

Upon reviewing your request, 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.

The information is not held in a reportable format and has also changed due to the manner in which information has been collated over the years. It would require an officer to manually trawl through a large volume of records for the requested years, to answer your request in full. We have estimated that this will exceed 18 hours work. Your request has therefore been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

We also advise that we are unable to share details of concerns as requested in Question 2, to protect the identity of children and those in a position of trust. The LADO does not record referrals based on the criteria set out in the question. Regarding Question 5, we also confirm that it would exceed 18 hours work to individually check through each referral to provide the level of detail requested. This would apply for each requested year.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we advise that we can provide the following information.

Question 1:

24-25 financial year - 6 total

23-24 financial year - 148 total

22-23 financial year - 98 total

We are unable to provide a breakdown of referrals from each school within 18 hours.

Question 3:

ASV Meetings - We do not refer to any meetings by that name in this local authority and therefore unable to provide any information. If you are referring to Position of Trust (POT) meetings, we may be able to provide some information through a reformulated request. Any reformulated request will be treated as a new FOI request.

Question 4:

We cannot provide school specific or case specific data however we can provide year on year totals as below:

24-25 financial year: outcomes for referrals made by education professional: 3 open

23 - 24 financial year: unsubstantiated 20, unfounded 8, substantiated 20, ongoing 65

22 - 23 financial year: unfounded 15, not threshold 20, substantiated 16, unsubstantiated 12, ongoing 10

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR 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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance