

Request

In the 2023 calendar year how many children were taken into care where there was a recorded concern that the parents/carers were at risk of physical violence from the child? Please state the ages and sexes of any children involved.

Response

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

Physical violence from the child is not one of the statutory categories of need that we are obliged to statutory collect by the Department of Education (*see guidance 903 guidance 2024 2025*), therefore the data requested is not available in a reportable format and would be held in free type records. We estimate that it will take over 18 hours of a local authority officer's time to supply this information. This is based on the following: 280 children entered care in 2023, at a minimum of 5 minutes per record to look, this would take over 23 hours.