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| <b>REQUEST</b>  | <b>16696</b> |
| <p>I am asking for you to disclose as at the 30th June 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The total number of 'Looked After Children' you have in your care in council care homes.</li> <li>2. The total number of children you have in private sector care homes.</li> <li>3. The number of asylum seekers in your care to include those in hotels, guest houses or included in the total numbers at 1 &amp; 2.</li> <li>4. How many children have 'gone missing' for whatever reason whilst in your care in the period Jan - Dec 2023?</li> <li>5. Have any children been the subject of alleged sex crime since coming into your care whether internally or externally in the 12 months ending Dec 2023?</li> <li>6. Have any children been involved in self-harm or suicide in that period.</li> <li>7. How many children were additionally placed with foster carers in that period?</li> <li>8. How many children were additionally placed for adoption in that period?</li> <li>9. How many minors upon reaching the age of majority (18) were released by the council into society?</li> <li>10. Of those released how many does the council know the whereabouts of now?</li> </ol>   |              |
| <p><b>RESPONSE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. &lt;5</li> <li>2. 71</li> <li>3. 43</li> <li>4. 87</li> </ol> <p>5 &amp; 6. 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.</p> <p>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: <a href="http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf">http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf</a></p> <p>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.</p> |              |

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case. There were 963 children looked after during this period. Estimating a minimum of 5 minutes per record it would take over 80 hours, which exceeds the 18 hour limit.

7. 190

8. 33

9. 87

10. 87