



Request

1. In how many instances are **any** of the following factors referenced in a social worker's assessment report (or equivalent) of a child that has been referred to social services? Please provide the total number per year, for the past five years.
 - Insecure or substandard housing,
 - Temporary housing / accommodation
 - Risk of homelessness or eviction

2. In how many instances are **any** of the following factors referenced in a social worker's assessment report (or equivalent) of a child that has been referred to social services? Please provide the total number per year, for the past five years.
 - Financial instability,
 - Adults without work
 - Family requiring support with finances
 - Unmanageable debt

3. In how many instances is 'poverty' mentioned in a social worker's assessment report of a child that has been referred to social services? Please provide the total number per year, for the past five years.

4. In how many instances is 'malnutrition' and/or 'hunger' mentioned in a social worker's assessment report of a child that has been referred to social services? Please provide the total number per year, for the past five years.

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.

This data is not recorded in a reportable format. It would require manually looking at individual assessments which would take far in excess of 18 hours finding time.

For the 23/24 statutory year alone there were 4863 completed children and families assessments which using a minimum of 5 minutes per assessment would take over 405 hours.