



Our ref: 68724833
14 November 2024

Account reference:request-1180923-e0130e9e@whatdotheyknow.com

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for the freedom of information request you have made. I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham Children's Trust. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

*** For each year in the period, how many people have been considered to be at risk of 'child sex exploitation - CSE' and 'Child Criminal Exploitation - CCE' - please provide an age breakdown if available. If providing a breakdown by age for each year would risk identifying individuals, then please instead provide an age breakdown for the entire period.**

Age	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
8							≤5	≤5		
9							0	0		
10	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	
11	7	≤5	≤5	0	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	0	≤5
12	10	12	9	9	≤5	≤5	6	≤5	7	≤5
13	16	23	16	18	17	22	22	25	21	15
14	52	57	60	48	38	32	52	46	41	31
15	66	97	87	73	64	67	51	75	69	45
16	69	100	107	79	60	76	90	77	67	64
17	55	65	90	69	48	74	70	71	49	52
18	19	39	37	31	23	39	54	31	47	25
19	≤5	16	33	29	27	24	≤5	0	≤5	≤5
20	0	≤5	15	32	28	29	0	0	0	≤5
21	0	0	≤5	15	32	34	≤5	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	≤5	15	24	≤5	0	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	≤5	6	≤5	0	0	0

24	0	0	0	0	0	≤5	0	0	0	0
Total	299	415	458	406	359	437	355	334	304	238

Some information has been withheld. This information is exempt under [Section 40\(2\)](#) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Where the number is 5 or less, the Trust has replaced the figure with 'equal to or less than 5' ("≤5"). The numbers have been withheld to prevent individuals being identified; this is in line with the [Information Commissioners guidance of anonymization](#), which mitigates the risk of individuals being identified. The Trust considers that individuals could potentially be identified from the very low numbers and that such identification would constitute a breach of one of the principles set out under the Data Protection Act 2018. This is on the basis that it could be combined with other reasonably available information to identify individuals. As this is personal data, disclosure under Freedom of Information is conditional upon satisfying the First Data Protection Principle, that processing be fair, lawful and transparent. We recognise that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability in public decision making. We have balanced this against the privacy rights of the individual data subjects.

On balance, we consider the detriment to privacy through disclosure outweighs the interest that would be served. Accordingly, disclosure would be in contravention of the First Data Protection Principle. It is therefore appropriate for us to withhold this information under section 40(2) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) by virtue of section 40(3A)(a). Therefore we are exempting this part of the request under section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the same Act.

*** For each year in the period, How many people have been considered to be involved in 'child sex exploitation - CSE' and 'Child Criminal Exploitation - CCE'- please provide an age breakdown if available. If providing a breakdown by age for each year would risk identifying individuals, then please instead provide an age breakdown for the entire period.**

The information you have requested is not held in a readily accessible format. I can confirm that the Trust has kept a manual record (i.e. outside of case management systems).

From undertaking a sampling exercise in respect to similar Fol requests in the past, we estimate that it takes approximately 10 minutes to locate the file and locate specific information contained in the file, dependent on the size and complexity of the file.

The [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) (the Act) requires us to comply with a request, unless it would be too expensive to do so. Under s.12 (Cost of

compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the Act, the cost limit for the Trust is £450 i.e. 18 hours at the rate of £25 per person per hour.

The cost limit allows us to consider when estimating the cost of complying with a request, time spent determining whether we hold the information requested; identifying, locating and retrieving it and extracting the information from the relevant documents.

In order for us to answer this question, there are 3605 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 600 hours. We are therefore unable to process your request as to do so would exceed the cost limit as set out in s.12 of the Act.

In cases where the time involved in dealing with requests for information would exceed 18 hours, the Trust normally offers individuals the option to pay for the additional work over and above 18 hours, at a subsidised rate of £25 per hour. However, where the resources involved in dealing with a request would have detrimental impact on the Trust's ability to provide its core services, the Trust is entitled not provide this option, and accordingly, refuse the request outright.

In this case due to the amount of work and resources required to comply with this element of your request, the Trust is of the view that the resources involved in responding to your request, even if you were to pay the subsidised statutory rate of £25.00 per hour, would interfere significantly with the Trust's ability to provide its core services, as such, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse the request outright on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

*** For each year in the period, how many calls were recorded to the MASH helpline**

It is assumed that you are referring to calls made to the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS).

Calls to CASS are managed through the City Council's Contact Centre. You would therefore need to direct this part of your request to the City Council through the following link: [How to make a freedom of information request | Make a freedom of information request | Birmingham City Council](#)

*** For each year in the period, how many cases of those recorded at risk of exploitation were investigated by the Birmingham Children's Trust**

All cases are investigated.

*** For each year in the period, how many cases of those recorded to be involved in exploitation were investigated by the Birmingham Children's Trust**

All cases are investigated.

*** Please provide an annual breakdown of the Birmingham Children's Trust budget set aside to tackling Child Sex Exploitation**

The Trust does not have a specific budget for tackling child sex exploitation.

Please quote the reference number **68724833** in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response. Please outline which part of the response you are not happy with setting out your reasons. This request should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY
Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Birmingham Children's Trust's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Britteon
Disclosure Officer

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