

IGF/3796:- Received 2 November 2017, responded 21 November 2017

Keywords: - Looked after children school admissions

1. In 2016-17, how many applications for in-year admissions to mainstream schools did the local authority make on behalf of its looked-after children?

2. How many of these were to (a) maintained schools and (b) academies/non-maintained schools?

3. How many of these applications were successful, within the timescale of 20 school days? Please provide this figure for (a) maintained schools and (b) academies/non-maintained schools.

4. How many of the applications were successful beyond 20 school days? Please provide this figure for (a) academies and (b) academies/non-maintained schools. 0

5. What were the reasons for any delays beyond the 20 day limit? Please say in how many cases each of the below reasons applied: Not Applicable

- Bureaucracy
- Communication difficulties
- Response not provided within timescale
- Initial refusal being challenged through appeal process
- Initial refusal lead to threat to direct
- Initial refusal lead to request to direct
- Other

6. How many applications were unsuccessful? Please provide this figure for (a) academies and (b) academies/non-maintained schools. 0

7. What reasons were given for rejecting applications? Please say in how many cases each of the below reasons applied: Not Applicable

- That by admitting a looked after child it would 'seriously prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources'
- Already over PAN
- Unable to meet needs of pupil
- Other

8. How many cases resulted in a direction to another admissions authority? 0
9. How many cases were referred to the Department for Education/ESFA? 0
10. How many of these referrals resulted in the school/academy being directed to take the pupil onto its roll? 0
11. What was the longest length of time it took from the point of applying in-year to a mainstream school/academy, to a pupil being accepted onto its roll? 17days

For questions 1, 2, and 3, I confirm that we hold the information you are seeking. However, we are unable to provide you with this information due to the low numbers involved and the likelihood that disclosure of this information would lead to the identification of children and/or young people and their families.

Information that identifies individuals is classed as their personal data, which is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (the FOIA). Although you have not asked for names, information is still personal data even if it does not refer to individuals by name, if that information identifies them or would lead to their identification when used in conjunction with other available information.

We can only disclose personal data in response to a FOIA enquiry if it would be fair, lawful and meet the relevant conditions for processing set out in the Data Protection Act (the DPA).

In this case, we consider that disclosure would be a breach of the DPA. This is because it would be unfair to the individuals concerned and not be in their reasonable expectations to have their identities divulged into the public realm in response to this enquiry. We have also considered any legitimate interest in disclosure and weighed this up with any potential detriment to the individuals that disclosure may cause. We have also considered their fundamental privacy rights afforded to them under the DPA. It is our view that individual privacy rights outweigh any legitimate interest in disclosure in this case.