

**Request for Information: Ref NCC-025674-17**

Thank you for your request under the freedom of Information Act about post adoption letterbox contact. You asked;

- 1) In the last 12 months how many exchanges of letters have Nottinghamshire County Council dealt with?
- 2) Of those that you have dealt with, how many have required further social work intervention and birth parent support?

We are now able to provide the following information in response to your request.

1) We currently have a total of 544 active letterbox arrangements; with a total of 1453 participants. Most of our exchanges are one letter per year from each participant, however we do have a number of arrangements which take place more regularly. Most exchanges run smoothly, but we do have some where people fail to send in letters. Therefore, we would estimate that we deal with approximately 1400 letters per annum.

2) Unfortunately, it is impossible to provide information regarding exactly how many of these letters required social work input, without an officer reading through every one of the 544 children's case files to check if we have provided support or not. We do not keep any separate records relating to this, as all of our work is recorded directly onto the child's case file. However, my colleagues who deal with the letterbox contact have been able to provide the following information;

From experience, we would estimate that approximately every one in ten of the letters we receive requires some form of social work support; be that a telephone call, or meeting with a birth relative to help them re write the letter appropriately, a phone call to adoptive parents to discuss contents of birth relatives letters and agree a way forward, or time spent chasing people who have failed to reply where the other party is anxious to receive something. We also spend a great deal of time emotionally supporting/counselling birth relatives with feelings of loss and grief, and supporting all participants with the sharing of difficult news such as medical information, deaths, new children born to birth family, and information shared by adopters about the ongoing struggles their children may be facing."

I hope that you find this information to be helpful. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, please email us at [foi@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@nottsc.gov.uk)