

3rd May 2018

**Request for Information: Ref NCC-030966-18
Missing Children in Care**

Thank you for your request for information relating to missing children in care. I can now let you have the following information in response to the questions you raised.

For the last four financial years (including April 2017 - March 31st 2018), on how many occasions did children in care ('looked after children') go missing?

Data on missing incidents for Looked after children is published by the DFE here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>. For 2017/18, where data hasn't yet been published, 127 LAC children had one or more missing episode in year.

For the last financial year (April 2017- March 2018), of the occasions where children in care went missing and were then found, how many were found to have been:

- a) hurt or harmed physically while they were missing**
- b) sexually assaulted or exploited while they were missing**
- c) involved in the sale of drugs while they were missing**
- d) engaged in criminal activities during their absence**

Please include all known incidences, even if a child experienced more than one e.g. where a child was both hurt or harmed physically and sexually assaulted, please included occasions as figures for both part a and part b.

This information is not available in a reportable format and would require each missing episode to be manually reviewed to see if it met any of these criteria. In 2017/18 there were 738 missing episodes. Estimating 10-15 mins per episode to capture this data would require between 120 and 185 hours to complete. You may be aware that there is a statutory limit to the amount of time authorities are required to spend retrieving and collating information in order to respond to a request. This is defined in the Fees and Appropriate Limit Regulations and currently stands at 2.5 days. We estimate that it will take one officer in excess of 2.5 days to locate the information you have requested. **Under Section 12** of the Freedom of Information Act we are not obliged to process requests that exceed this limit.

Most of this information will be produced by Independent Return interviews which are conducted after children in care go missing. The findings are shared with the local authority when produced by a different authority on their behalf. Please see this link for more information:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/208528/Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care consultation - final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/208528/Statutory_guidance_on_children_who_run_away_or_go_missing_from_home_or_care_consultation_-_final.pdf)

For the last four financial years (including April 2017 - March 31st 2018), how many children in care were unaccompanied asylum seeking children?

Data on Looked after children who were UASC is published by the DFE here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-looked-after-children>. For 2017/18, where data hasn't yet been published, 32 LAC were UASC at the 31st March.

For the last four financial years (including April 2017 - March 31st 2018), on how many occasions did unaccompanied asylum seeking children go missing?

2017/18 – 3 instances

2016/17 - 32 instances

2015/16 – 6 instances

2014/15 – 9 instances

We hope this now satisfies your request, and should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly using the contact details below. In addition and for future reference Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publish previous Freedom of Information Requests and answers on our website, under Disclosure logs, available at the following link:

<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottsc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Name Jilly Walden
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Nottinghamshire County Council

Complaints & Information Team, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Loughborough Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP