

Freedom of Information – Response – 26794

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information in relation to children's social care assessments held by Suffolk Council:

1. The total number of social work assessments awaiting completion as at the most recent reporting date.

As of 19th January 2026, there were 1,319 SWA that were either open, or closed by worker but not completed by manager.

2. Of these, how many were:

- a) unallocated to a social worker
- b) allocated but not completed

| a) unallocated to a social worker | b) allocated but not completed |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 0 | 1,319 |

3. The number of assessments outstanding beyond statutory timescales at that date.

33 (open for more than 45 days)

4. If available, a breakdown of the above figures by service area or team.

Uncompleted SWA by Locality

| Locality/Team | Open SWA |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Ipswich North East & Coastal | 300 |
| Ipswich South & West | 315 |
| Lowestoft and Waveney | 244 |
| West | 395 |
| Other | 65 |

SWA out of timescale by Locality

| Locality/Team | Open SWA out of timescale |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ipswich North East and Coastal | 0 |
| Ipswich South and West | 13 |
| Lowestoft and Waveney | 0 |
| West | 19 |
| Other | <5* |

*data is suppressed to avoid identification of individuals

While there is a general obligation under the Freedom of Information Act, to release information held by public authorities, there are exemptions to protect individuals' privacy and ensure compliance with data protection laws. The FOIA does not override data protection legislation if

releasing information could lead to the identification of an individual directly or indirectly, thereby breaching their privacy rights.

5. Monthly backlog figures for the previous 12 months (or the longest period readily available).

Please provide the information in an anonymised, aggregate format.

Suffolk County Council can confirm that SWA's are continuously moving through the assessment process, so we cannot report on backlog figures. We can however provide the numbers of SWA's that have been completed each month taking more than 45 working days, and the number of SWA open at the month end. This is provided below.

| Month (2025) | SWA completed in month > 45 working days | SWA open at month end |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| January | 69 | 780 |
| February | 101 | 866 |
| March | 72 | 830 |
| April | 100 | 815 |
| May | 74 | 818 |
| June | 54 | 861 |
| July | 90 | 848 |
| August | 87 | 838 |
| September | 103 | 905 |
| October | 85 | 1,096 |
| November | 88 | 1,126 |
| December | 115 | 1,265 |