

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 27062**

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide the following information about deprivation of liberty orders?*

*1. How many deprivation of liberty orders for under 18s were applied for by the authority in 2025?*

Suffolk County Council (SCC) do not record applications for deprivation of liberty orders in LCS (Liquidlogic Children's System) in a reportable format – applications would be recorded in case notes.

To calculate how many were applied for SCC would have to review every Child In Care record between 01-07-25 and 31-12-25 to see if an application was made.

There were 1,114 children who were looked after at some point between those dates.

SCC carried out a sampling exercise to find out a reasonable estimate for how long it would take to locate and extract the information requested.

The process that would need to be carried out and the time each step would take is as follows:

1. Open recording system – Liquid Logic – 15 seconds
2. Run a report that lists all CiC during this time period (01-07-25 – 31-12-25) using Power BI reporting tool – 2 minutes
3. Conduct a search for CiC record to be located - 15 seconds
4. Open and review the CiC case notes – 2 minutes
5. Search for DoLS in the CiC case notes and legal notes - 20 seconds
6. Record if a DoLS was in place – 5 seconds
7. Close the file – 5 seconds

Repeat steps 3 – 7 for all required CiC during the time period 01-07-25 – 31-12-25 =  
1,114 x 5 minutes = 5,570 minutes = 92 hours

Therefore, based upon our sampling exercise SCC estimate that it will take us in excess of 92 hours to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request making the total cost estimate of 92 hours x £25 = £2,300

Therefore, this information is being withheld under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Due to the way in which the information is recorded and the steps that would need to be taken to locate, identify and extract the requested information Suffolk County Council have been unable to find a way in which to make the request manageable but still provide meaningful information.

2. *How many deprivation of liberty orders for under 18s were granted to the authority in 2025?*

Three deprivation of liberty orders were granted between 01-07-2025 and 31-12-2025.