

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 27153**

*I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information.*

*Time periods requested:*

- *1 Jan 2019–31 Dec 2020*
- *1 Jan 2020–31 Dec 2021*
- *1 Jan 2021–31 Dec 2022*
- *1 Jan 2022–31 Dec 2023*
- *1 Jan 2023–31 Dec 2024*
- *1 Jan 2024–31 Dec 2025*

*For each of the above years, please provide:*

*The total number of adoptive/foster parent applicants under your purview.*

*The total number of adoptive/foster parent applicants under your purview that were rejected*

*The total number of adoptive/foster parent applicants under your purview that were successful*

*Break these figures into:*

- *Gender of applicants regarding all 3 points.*
- *ethnicity of applicants regarding all 3 points.*
- *Gender of couples regarding all 3 points eg man-man, man-woman, single, woman-woman, etc .*

*Appeals*

*For each of the above school calendar years, please provide:*

*a. The total number of applicants who appealed their rejection.*

*Break this down into the ethnicity of the applicant if you do collect it in this way.*

*b. The total number of applicants who successfully appealed their rejection.*

*Break this down into the ethnicity of applicant if you do collect it in this way.*

*We can confirm that Suffolk County Council (SCC) holds this information; however, it is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).*

*To complete the request, we would need to manually review multiple data sources to locate, retrieve, and extract the information requested.*

*Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.*

*Suffolk County Council estimate that it will exceed the time allowed for an FOI to locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request.*

### **Advice and Assistance**

Whilst we cannot provide you with what you have requested, if you are happy to receive information based upon the financial year 2025 – 2026 (1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March) we can provide you with information on:

*The total number of adoptive/foster parent applicants under your purview.*

*The total number of adoptive/foster parent applicants under your purview that were rejected*

*The total number of adoptive/foster parent applicants under your purview that were successful*

We are unable to break this down to provide gender details of the applicants.

Furthermore, we have based our s.12 response on the assumption that you mean individuals under assessment for adoption and fostering parent applications when you state 'under your purview' If this assumption is not correct and you mean something else, then please make contact with us to clarify this.

In addition, adoption/foster parent applicants follow a process of Appeal panel and then Independent Reviewing Mechanism (IRM) please confirm at what stage are you interested in receiving these numbers and again we can confirm that this would be for the financial year 2025/2026.