

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27643

Instructions for completion of the form:

- Please provide recorded local authority data for the period 2023–2025 where available.
- Enter “0” where the answer is nil.
- If data cannot be provided, please explain using the question at the end of each section (e.g. data not recorded or unable to retrieve).
- If you can not answer all questions please answer what you can or prioritise Q4

1. Looked After Children with Immigration Status

*In the period 2023 – 2025 inclusive, for each calendar year, please share the number of Looked After Children who had immigration status recorded **as an issue of concern**, including (but not limited to): no current immigration status, unresolved or insecure immigration status, or ongoing immigration or nationality applications.*

For the avoidance of doubt, I am not requesting data on all children in your care with any form of leave to remain or citizenship.

Please exclude children who are British citizens or who hold indefinite leave to remain, unless their cases involved previous periods of irregular or unresolved status during the reporting period.

If it would threaten the privacy of any individual to report numbers year on year, please report for the full three-year basis (2023 – 2025 inclusive).

Responding authority	Number of Looked After children with immigration status			Number of Looked After children with NO immigration status		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Suffolk						

2. Number of Looked After Children with Family and/or Connected Persons abroad

In the period 2023 – 2025, did you explore family and/or connected persons overseas as potential carers for a child in your care? Mark 1 for Yes; Mark 0 for No.

	Yes	No
Family and/or Connected Persons Overseas Explored as Potential Carers?		

3. Number of children placed with Family and/or Connected Persons abroad

In the period 2023 – 2025, for each calendar year, how many children were actually with Family and/or Connected Persons outside England or outside the UK? If it would threaten the privacy of any individual to report numbers year on year, please report for the full three-year basis (2023 – 2025 inclusive). If your response is ‘nil’, please use ‘0’.

Responding authority	Placed outside of England but within UK			Placed outside of the UK		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025

4. Court orders used for placement overseas

For each calendar year, between 2023 – 2025, what number and types of court orders were used to place children with Family and/or Connected Persons outside of the UK? If it would threaten the privacy of any individual to report numbers year on year, please report for the full three-year basis (2023 – 2025 inclusive). If your response is 'nil', please use '0'.

No order but child placed outside UK			ICO			CAO			Special Guardianship Order			Adoption Order			Other Order		
2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025

5. Post-placement support for overseas placements

Has your local authority made any financial support payments to kinship carers living overseas in the past three calendar years (2023, 2024, 2025)? This is regardless of order type and could include: section 17 payments, kinship allowance, SG support, discretionary welfare payments etc. Please list countries of residence of the formerly LAC.

Responding Authority	Yes	No

If yes, to which countries were payments made?	
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A- Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held, however, it is being withheld under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA.) S.12 allows a public authority to refuse a request where it is estimated that complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit (£450 calculated at 18 hours of staff time charged at £25 per hour.)

Whilst we do hold the information you have requested it is held across individual case files and would require an individual employee to manually trawl these records to locate, extract and report on the information you have requested.

There are 4,186 records for children who were looked after at some point between 01-01-2023 and 31-12-2025. Therefore, to find this breakdown of what Carers were researched and Care orders in place would require an individual to complete the following steps to retrieve, extract and report:

- Run a report to identify those children in care during this time period

- Open each case file
- Scroll manually through the case file to extract the relevant information

CYP have carried out a sample exercise regarding these tasks outlined above and have been able to ascertain that this would take approximately three minutes per record.

$4,186 \times 3 \text{ mins} = 12,558 \text{ mins} / 60 = 209.3 \text{ Hours}$

$209 \times £25 = £5,225$

In addition, Q3 and Q4 are withheld as to disclose this number is likely to make individuals identifiable as numbers are less than 5.

Advice and Assistance

Whilst we cannot answer all the questions you have requested, we can respond to you with some information as follows:

1. SCC can provide data that is recorded with an Immigration Status as follows:
 - Limited leave to remain in UK – no recourse to public funds
 - No immigration status – irregular migrant or leave expired
 - Refused Asylum, Appeal applied for
2. SCC cannot provide you with data for this question for the reasons stated above but can confirm that Family and/or Connected Persons overseas if available are considered as part of the search for a placement for a child.
5. We can respond to this question with a Yes or No, but cannot break down the countries payments were made to.

Please let us know if you would like to receive this information