

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27742

I am doing some personal research into section 20's (S20) which are voluntary, and the communication between foster carers and birth family, and comparing councils which advocate a Trauma informed approach to meetings with parent(s) as per 'Research in Practice' to those who do not, and the length of time a child is in care under a S20.

I am hoping it is possible to submit the following as Freedom of information requests?

- 1. How many children were in care under a section 47 as of 01/08/2026?*
- 2. How many children were in care under a section 31 as of 01/08/2026?*
- 3. How many children were in care under a section 20 as of 01/08/2026?*
- 4. How many children were in care under a section 20 in care over 1 year but not more than 2 years as of 01/08/2026?*
- 5. How many children were in care under a section 20 in care over 2 years but not more than 3 years as of 01/08/2026?*
- 6. How many children were in care under a section 20 in care over 3 years but not more than 4 years as of 01/08/2026?*
- 7. How many children were in care under a section 20 in care over 4 years but not more than 5 years as of 01/08/2026?*
- 8. How many foster carers do not share address, phone number or meet face to face with the parent(s) of S20 children in their care for less than 1 year as of 01/08/2026?*
- 9. How many foster families do not share address, phone number or meet face to face with the parent(s) of S20 children in their care for more than 1 year and less than 2 years?*
- 10. How many foster families do not share address, phone number or meet face to face with the parent(s) of S20 children in their care for more than 2 years but less than 3 years?*
- 11. How many foster families do not share address, phone number or meet face to face with the parent(s) of S20 children in their care for more than 3 years but less than 4 years?*
- 12. How many foster families do not share address, phone number or meet face to face with the parent(s) of S20 children in their care for more than 4 years but less than 5 years?*
- 13. Do you record if parent(s) of a child in care has neurodiversity? If so: How many parents, of children under a S20 (for any length of time), have been diagnosed with neurodiversity (I am not requesting to know what the neurodiversity is rather how many parents have neurodiversity)?*

From:

- 23/08/20 to 22/08/21
- 23/08/21 to 22/08/22
- 23/08/22 to 22/08/23
- 23/08/23 to 22/08/24
- 23/08/24 to 22/08/25
- 23/08/25 to 22/08/26

14. How many families under a S20 have had a global or holistic or family psychological assessment e.g. CAF/CASS for S47 or similar at any time whilst the child has been in foster care for any length of time provided by Children's Services. If so, how many families have been supported with this intervention?

From:

- 23/08/20 to 22/08/21
- 23/08/21 to 22/08/22
- 23/08/22 to 22/08/23
- 23/08/23 to 22/08/24
- 23/08/24 to 22/08/25
- 23/08/25 to 22/08/26

15. Do you advocate a Trauma informed approach to meetings with parent(s) as per 'Research in Practice' (<https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk>). If so when did you commence this approach?

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 SCC can confirm that we do hold the information you have requested, it is held over multiple case files and would involve an individual staff member to manually trawl through individual case files to locate and extract the relevant information.

There have been approximately 1,244 unique children and young people who have been recorded as a Child in Care accommodated under a S.20 during the time-period 23/08/2021 to 22/08/2026.

Therefore, to find the information requested in questions 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 would require an individual to complete the following steps:

- Run a report to determine Individuals accommodated under S.20
- Using LiquidLogic Case management system open up each individual record
- On each individual record navigate to the case notes
- Review case notes to locate, retrieve and extract any information that may relate to Questions 8 -14

CYP have carried out a sample exercise regarding these tasks outlined above and have been able to ascertain that this would take approximately 4 minutes per record.

$4 \times 1,244 = 4,976 \text{ minutes} / 60 = 83 \text{ hours.}$

Therefore, this would exceed the time and cost allowed for an FOI.

83 hours x £25 = £2,075

Advice and Assistance

Whilst SCC cannot respond in full to your request we can provide you with information to answer questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 15.

Please let us know if you would like to receive this information and we will begin preparing this for you.