

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27821

This request concerns care leavers aged 18–24 whose deaths occurred during calendar year 2025, and the Department for Education review published on 25 August 2026, ‘You really are on your own’: a study of the early deaths of young people who were in care.

I am seeking aggregate or anonymised information only. I am not seeking names, dates of birth, addresses, causes of death, family details or other identifying case information.

For calendar year 2025, please provide:

1. Known deaths

The number of care leavers aged 18–24 for whom your authority had leaving-care responsibilities whose deaths occurred during 2025 and came to the authority’s attention, whether during 2025 or subsequently.

Please use the same population/definition your authority uses for reporting care-leaver deaths to DfE through the Child Safeguarding Incident Notification System (CSINS). If a different definition is used, please state it.

<5*

2. DfE notification

Of the deaths counted in question 1, the number notified to DfE through CSINS.

<5

3. Post-death pathway

For each death, where this can be provided without identifying the individual, please use an anonymous identifier such as Case A, Case B, etc., and provide any recorded information showing:

- *whether the death was notified to DfE;*
- *whether a formal post-death review or learning process took place;*
- *the type/name of that process;*
- *whether it was single-agency or multi-agency and, if recorded, which organisations participated;*
- *whether the council was invited or recognised as an interested person at any coroner’s inquest;*
- *whether the council was represented at the inquest;*
- *whether the review or other process produced recommendations or actions; and*
- *whether any findings or learning were published. If so, please provide the title, link or a copy.*

If case-by-case disclosure would risk identifying an individual, please provide aggregate counts for each field instead rather than omitting the information entirely.

All Care leavers and living in care deaths are notified to via [Serious Incident Notification guide](#)

Numbers are <5

4. Deaths not notified to DfE

For any deaths counted in question 1 that were not notified through CSINS, please provide any recorded reason or reason category for non-notification, if held.

N/A

5. Policy and procedure

Copies of any policy, procedure, protocol or guidance that was in force during 2025 governing what the authority should do when it becomes aware of the death of a care leaver aged 18–24, including notification, internal escalation, post-death review, multi-agency involvement, inquest involvement and dissemination of learning.

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. However, the information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Please see the following:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69fb1c28d0e316a40f269a5b/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2026_a_guide_to_multi_agency_working.pdf

[Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

[Serious Incident Notification guide](#)

[Final-SUDIC-+Protocol+July+2025.pdf](#)

[Child Death Overview Panel \(CDOP\) — Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership](#)

*** Data suppression**

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.