

Your Ref:

Our Ref: FOI IAT 10699

Please ask for: Claire Jacobs

Direct Line / 01432 260 340

Extension:

Fax:

E-mail: accesstoinformation@herefordshire.gov.uk

2 December 2015

Dear Sir,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST FOI IAT 10699

Further to previous correspondence, your request for information has now been considered, and the council's response is set out below:

Q1 Can you give the exact number of families who are currently using 1 Ledbury Road that have finished their core assessment?

- A. 22 assessments for 21 families have been completed by social workers and signed off by a manager, and are now in consultation with families for finalisation.

Q2 Can you get the exact number of families that are currently using 1 Ledbury Road who have requested the continuous use of Ledbury Road in their core assessment?

- A. Fewer than 10 families have requested the continuous provision of 1 Ledbury Road for their children.

Details of the exact number of families that are currently using 1 Ledbury Road who have requested the continuous use of Ledbury Road in their core assessment are withheld and instead a range (fewer than 10) has been provided. Those involved in the core assessment process are from a small pool of people and it would, in our view, be possible to identify the individual families and children concerned if the exact figures were provided to you. This would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the information is therefore exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please take this letter as a refusal notice under S17 of the Act for this part of your request.

Q3 Can you give the exact number of families currently using 1 Ledbury Road who have been offered foster carers in their core assessment by their social worker?

- A. Ten families would wish to explore family based overnight short breaks as an option for their children if available.

Q4 Can you give the exact number of families currently using 1 Ledbury Road who have requested foster carers for their respite care?

Q5 Can you give the exact number of families currently using 1 Ledbury Road who have been offered residential care from the social worker?

- A. In response to Questions 4 and 5, details of the exact number of families currently using 1 Ledbury Road who have requested foster carers for their respite care and the number that have been offered residential care from a social worker have been withheld. The families are from a small pool of people and it would, in our view, be possible to identify individual families and the children concerned if the exact figures were provided to you. This would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the information is therefore exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please take this letter as a refusal notice under S17 of the Act for this part of your request.

I am advised, however, that the recommendations for most families are for family based overnight short breaks, with an acknowledgement that the needs of some families could be met in a residential setting if suitable family based service is not immediately available.

The recommendations for a small number of families are for residential settings only.

The recommendations for a small number of families are to transfer to day-time short breaks.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request or you would like a review of the response provided, further information regarding our review procedure is available in the 'Internal Review Procedure for EIR and FOI requests' which is published on Herefordshire Council's website via the following link:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/government-citizens-and-rights/data-protection-and-freedom-of-information/data-protection>

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 745 www.ico.org.uk

Yours faithfully

CLAIRE JACOBS

INFORMATION ACCESS OFFICER