

LONDON'S  
CHILDREN:  
MISSING  
FROM CARE

June 2015

*Caroline  
Pidgeon  
MBE AM*

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## Foreword

Children go missing from the care of local authorities all the time. That's not an inflammatory headline, sadly, that is just fact, a reality of the times we live in.

The recent high profile child abuse cases have made it clear that protecting our children and young people is becoming more and more challenging. However, having said this, it is also clear that the current safeguarding systems many London Boroughs have in place are simply failing our children.



Children who are in the care of London Boroughs are called looked after children. The NSPCC report "[Children who go missing from care](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/children-missing-from-care-report.pdf)"<sup>1</sup> shows that looked after children are significantly more likely than other children to go missing, with those in residential care three times more likely to go missing than other children. These children face a significant risk of harm, and are likely to be exposed to the risk of alcohol and drugs, criminal and sexual exploitation and arrest. It's clear that these children are vulnerable and when a child goes missing from care they are at high risk.

Last year I conducted a study to take a measure of the problem across London. This year I have repeated that study. The purpose of this repeat study is to highlight just how serious this problem still is across London. The results, obtained by freedom of information requests submitted to 32 London Boroughs speak for themselves, revealing that a **worrying** problem still exists in every part of our city.

There is still a high number of recorded missing children from many boroughs, and still a failure by some London Boroughs to have accessible data relating to the children they are legally responsible for.

The numbers reflect a worrying trend. Young looked after children are going missing on a daily basis and London Boroughs need to prioritise supporting these young people to ensure we don't have a Rotherham type situation in London today.

As a mother and a former councillor I know that current standards need to be raised. I hope this report plays a role in pushing these issues up the agenda and leads to the standard of care we would all expect for our own children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**  
**Liberal Democrat London Assembly Police and Crime Spokesperson**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/children-missing-from-care-report.pdf>

## **What's the problem?**

Some of the country's most vulnerable children are disappearing from care, sometimes for hours or days and sometimes for months or even years.

At any given time, more than 30,000 children in England are in the care of local authorities. These authorities monitor the children's progress and oversee their placement in local authority-run children's homes or with foster-carers or other guardians. The authorities are supposed to keep track of what happens to children who officially leave the care system, logging them in categories such as children who are adopted, returned to parents or family, taken into foster care or those who have grown out of care. But children who do not fall into these categories—for instance, those who run away or end up homeless, abducted, trafficked or worse—are lumped into a category that the Department for Education simply labels "other," also known as "E8."

Last autumn, a review by the NSPCC showed that bad record-keeping has been a feature of the abuse scandals, including Rochdale. The review found that between 1979 and 1999, the Home Office had "lost or destroyed" 114 files relating to reported child abuse. This bad record keeping is not just at a national level, it's also at a local level.

How can we safeguard these children if proper records are not being kept when they go missing?

**Thousands of children  
disappear each year.**

Channel 4 News, May 2015

**Up to FOURTEEN children go  
missing in Croydon EVERY  
DAY.**

Croydon Advertiser, April 2014

**Birmingham City Council failed  
CSE victims by not keeping  
proper missing children records  
for SIX years.**

Birmingham Mail May 2015

**Scandal of the city's runaway  
children – 6,000 reports of  
missing kids.**

Birmingham Mail, April 2014

**Lewisham's 'hugely  
disturbing' number of missing  
children in care.**

NewsShopper, April 2014

**Britain's missing babies: How thousands of children have disappeared from council care in the last two years – and one infant still can't be found.**

- **Almost 5,000 children – including babies – disappeared from council care.**
- **19 babies have vanished for months at a time.**
- **The statistics, unveiled under FOI, have been called 'alarming' by NSPCC.**

**Daily Mail, June 2014**

**Dozens of London children go missing from out-of-area care.**

**Children from London who are placed in care outside of their home area are going missing on average every two and a half days, it has emerged.**

**Children & Young People Now, April 2014**

## Aims

The term “looked after children” has a specific legal meaning based on the [Children Act](#). A child is looked after by a local authority if he or she has been provided with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours<sup>1</sup>, or is placed in the care of a local authority<sup>2</sup>.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is a key duty of local authorities. When a child goes missing from care they are at risk. The risks children face if they go missing from care have been well demonstrated by the Rotherham child abuse case.

Ofsted statistics show that during the year 2013-14, 4,245 children and young people were reported to have gone missing from care - 900 more than in the previous year. These children went missing on 13,305 occasions - a 36% rise on the previous year. 528 of these children who went missing were deemed to be at risk of sexual exploitation, and 431 of the cases were said to be linked to substance misuse.

Last year I sent a freedom of information request (FOI) to all London Boroughs. I wanted to know how many children in their care had gone missing from placements and how many times these children had gone missing.

[The responses were quite shocking](#)<sup>3</sup>. Not only because of the sheer volume of vulnerable children who had gone missing with frightening frequency but also because of the boroughs varied responses. Across London, there seemed to be no cohesive way of recording when these children had gone missing. If this basic information isn't being recorded effectively, how can London Boroughs be effectively safeguarding the children in their care?

It was this question and the fact that the Department for Education has since published new statutory guidance for local authorities on children who go missing or runaway from care that led me to repeat this research. I wanted to see if, since my last FOI and since this guidance was published, fewer children are going missing from the care of our London Boroughs and how effectively the Boroughs are monitoring, safeguarding and caring for them.

I sent an FOI to every London Borough. I heard back from all boroughs except for Bromley and Hounslow. These two boroughs did not respond within the 20 day time limit set for responses under the Freedom of Information Act, despite my chasing.

Not every borough sent full information, although all information that was sent can be found in Appendix B.

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<sup>1</sup> In the circumstances set out in sections 20 and 21 of the Children Act 1989.

<sup>2</sup> By virtue of an order made under part IV of the Children Act 1989.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.carolinepidgeon.org/files/docs/missinglookedafterchildren.pdf>

## Findings

The response to our freedom of information raised concerns. Out of 32 boroughs only 21 boroughs provided the information in full<sup>1</sup>. We have directly comparable data from the years 2013 to 2014 for 11 boroughs<sup>2</sup>, a sample of 31% of all London boroughs. The information provided by boroughs showed that:

- 888 children went missing from the care of London Boroughs from January 2014-15.
- These 888 children went missing 1,640 times.
- 446 children went missing from placements within their boroughs 717 times.
- 442 children went missing from placements outside their borough 923 times.
- In Enfield:
  - 110 children went missing from their care 251 times.
  - From 2013 – 2014 the number of children going missing from care increased by 358% from 24 to 110.
  - In the last two years 134 children have gone missing.
  - From 2013-2014 the number of children missing from Enfield in borough placements rose by 722% from 9 children in 2013 to 74 children in 2014.
- In Brent:
  - 93 children went missing from their care 172 times.
  - From 2013 – 2014 the number of children going missing from care increased by 94% from 48 to 93.

<sup>1</sup> Some boroughs said it would take too long to collate the information, I find this worrying, this is vital information that should be easily available. Some boroughs said that by providing the data the identity of a child might be accessible and some boroughs said that this information is due to be published in the public domain so did not have to provide it.

<sup>2</sup> These ten boroughs are: Barking & Dagenham, Camden, Enfield, Greenwich, Harrow, Havering, Islington, Lewisham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth.



- In Camden
  - 65 children went missing from their care 151 times.
  - From 2013– 2014 the number of children going missing from care increased by 51% from 43 to 65.

- In Southwark 56 children went missing from their care 142 times in 2014.

- In Lewisham from 2013 – 2014 the number of children going missing from care increased by 164% from 28 to 74.

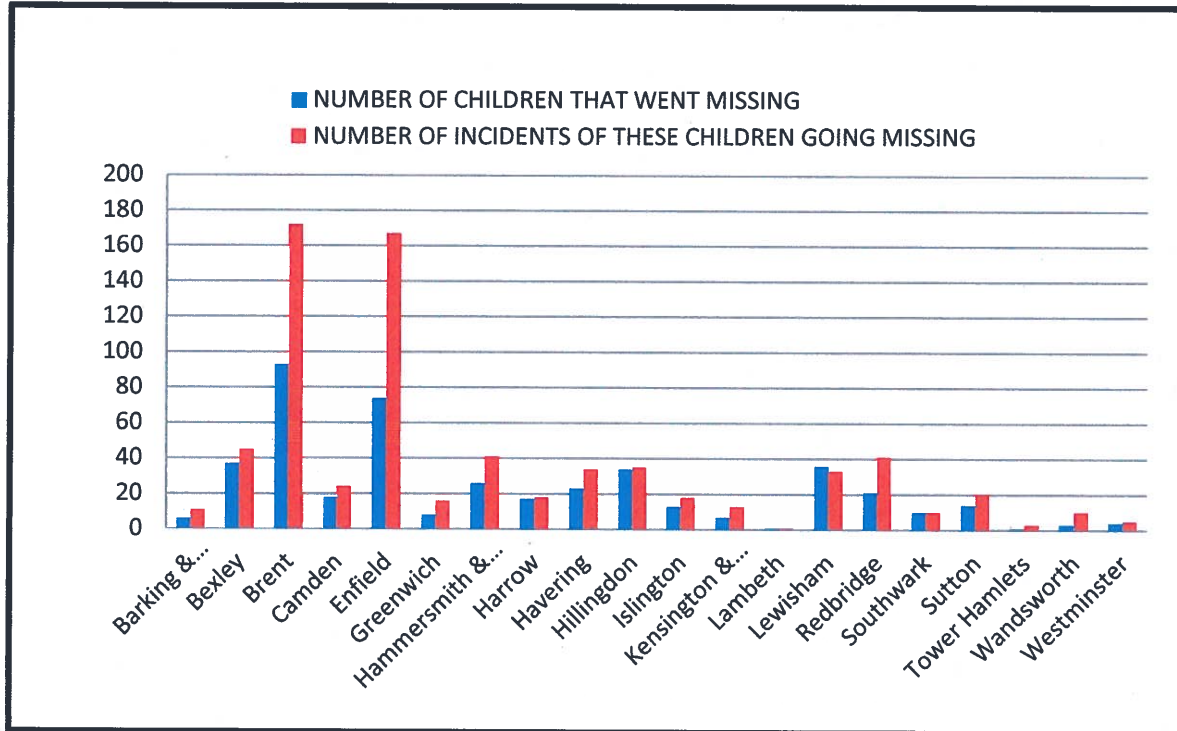
- Within our sample of 31% of boroughs that had directly comparable data sets from 2013 to 2014 the number of children that went missing rose by 118%:
  - 231 children in 2013/14
  - 504 children in 2014/15

- Within our sample of 31% of boroughs that had directly comparable data sets from 2013 to 2014 the number of children that went missing from placements within their borough rose by 150%:
  - 88 children in 2013
  - 220 children in 2014

- Within our sample of 31% of boroughs that had directly comparable data sets from 2013 to 2014 the number of children that went missing from placements outside of their borough rose by 96%:
  - 143 children in 2013
  - 284 children in 2014

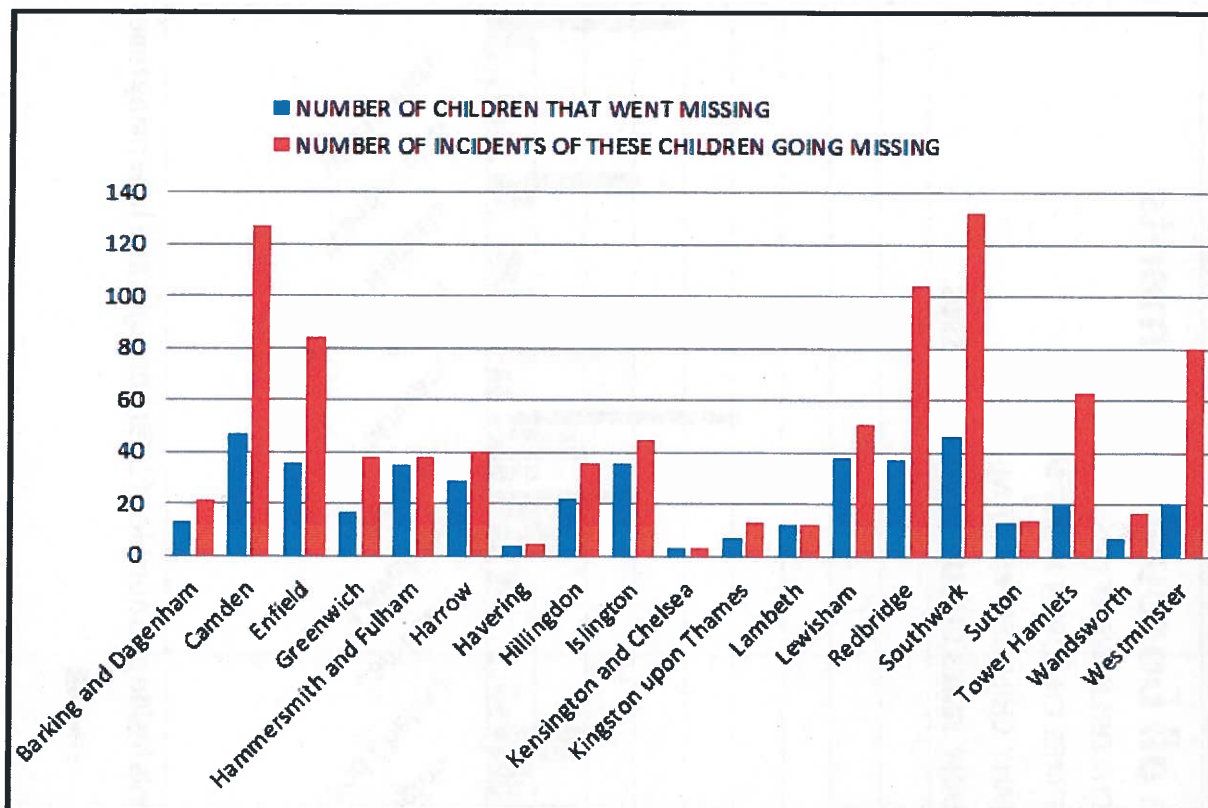
## Detailed Results Analysis

**Figure 1:** How many children went missing from care placements within their borough and how many times these children went missing in 2014.

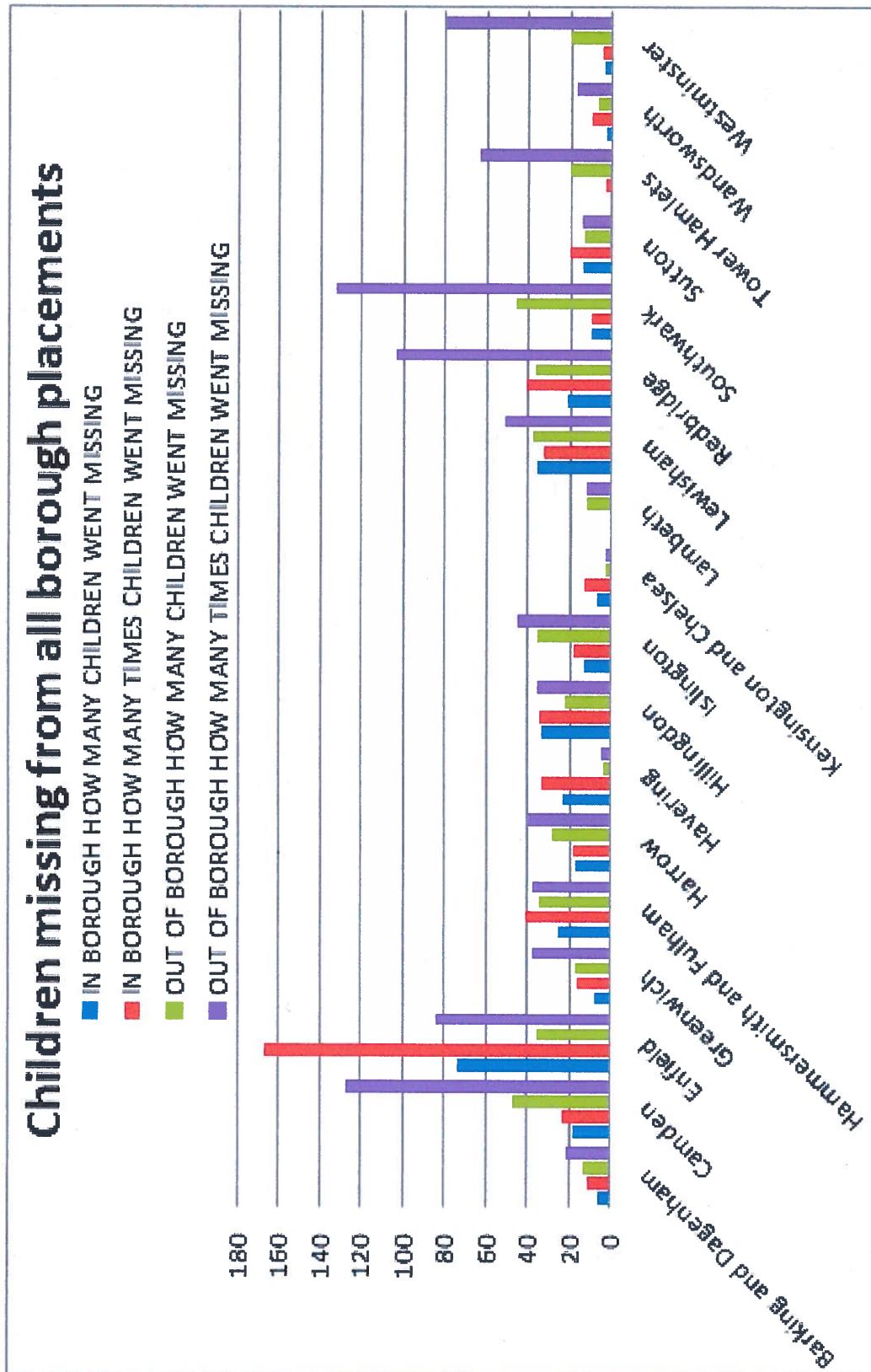


<b>BOROUGH</b>	<b>CHILDREN WENT MISSING</b>	<b>INCIDENTS OF CHILDREN GOING MISSING</b>
Barking & Dagenham	6	11
Bexley	37	45
Brent	93	172
Camden	18	24
Enfield	74	167
Greenwich	8	16
Hammersmith & Fulham	26	41
Harrow	17	18
Havering	23	34
Hillingdon	34	35
Islington	13	18
Kensington & Chelsea	7	13
Lambeth	1	1
Lewisham	36	33
Redbridge	21	41
Southwark	10	10
Sutton	14	20
Tower Hamlets	1	3
Wandsworth	3	10
Westminster	4	5

**Figure 2:** How many children went missing from care placements outside their borough and how many times these children went missing in 2014.

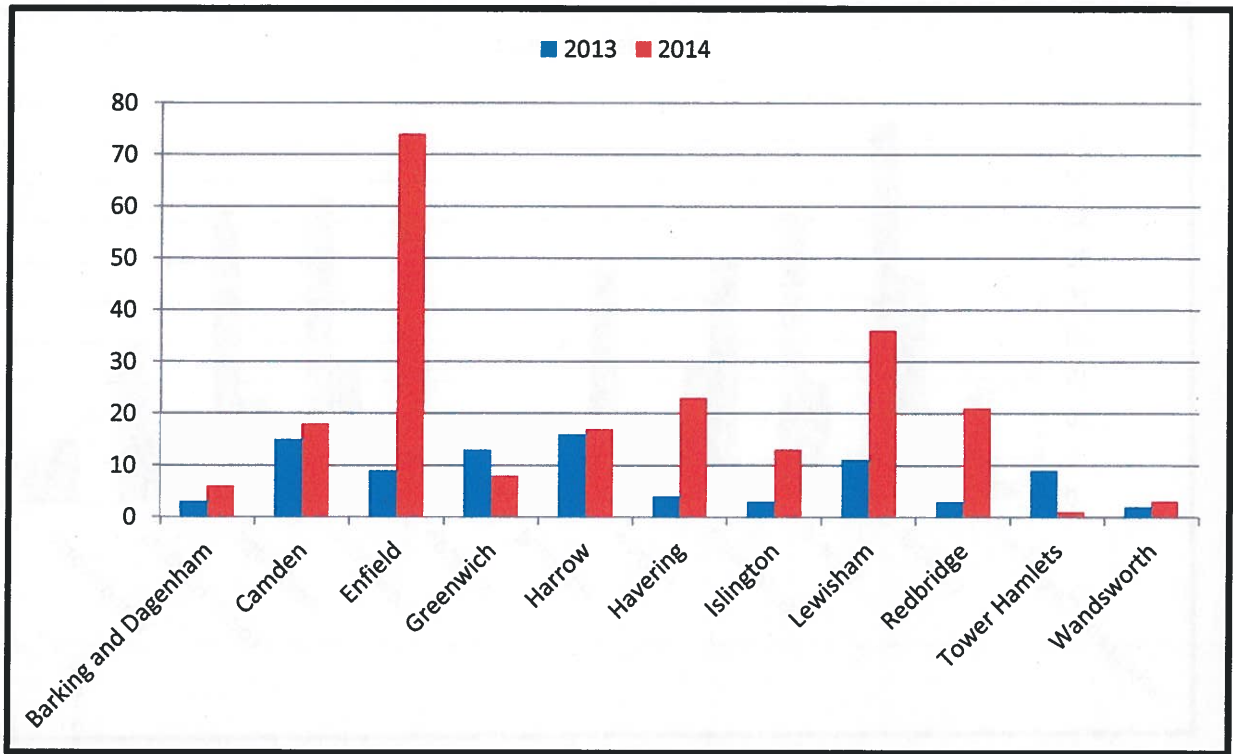


<b>BOROUGH</b>	<b>CHILDREN WENT MISSING</b>	<b>INCIDENTS OF CHILDREN GOING MISSING</b>
Barking & Dagenham	13	21
Camden	47	127
Enfield	36	84
Greenwich	17	38
Hammersmith & Fulham	35	38
Harrow	29	40
Havering	4	5
Hillingdon	22	36
Islington	36	45
Kensington & Chelsea	3	3
Kingston upon Thames	7	13
Lambeth	12	12
Lewisham	38	51
Redbridge	37	104
Southwark	46	132
Sutton	13	14
Tower Hamlets	20	63
Wandsworth	7	17
Westminster	20	80



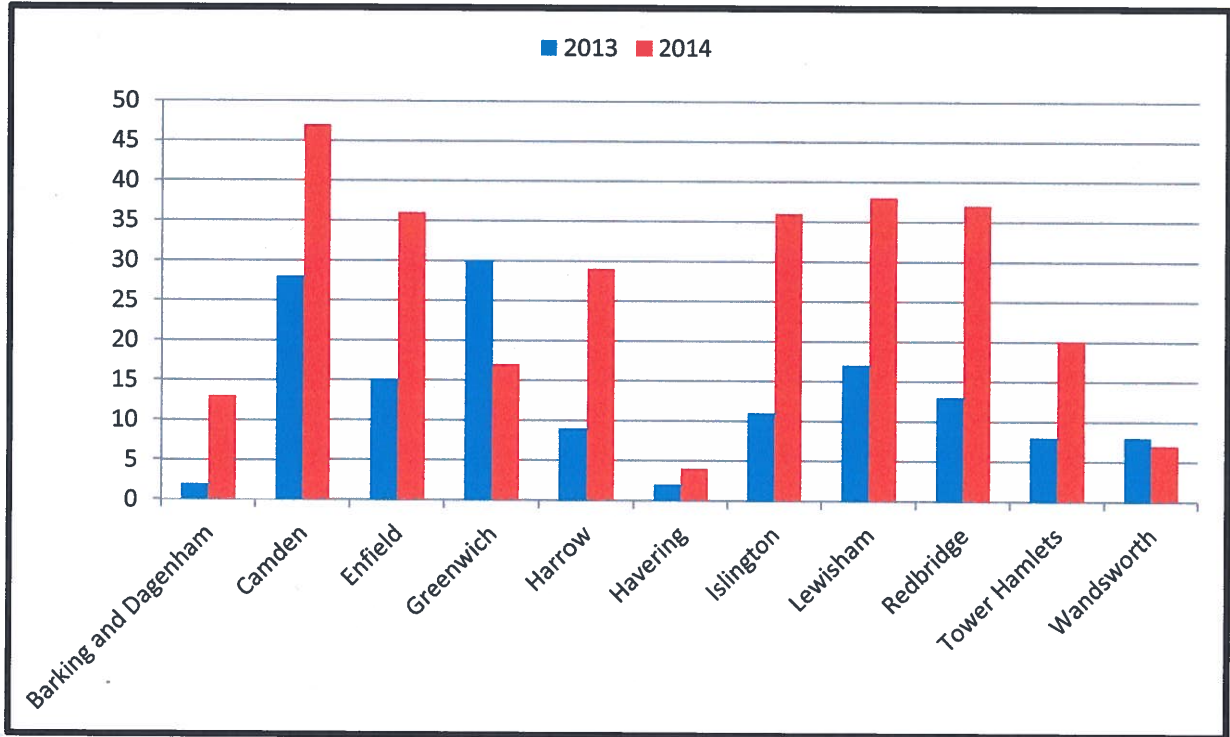
**Figure 3:** How many children went missing from care placements inside and outside of their boroughs and how many times these children went missing in 2014-15.

**Figure 4:** How many children went missing from care placements within their borough in 2013 compared to 2014.



<b>Borough</b>	<b>Number of missing children</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Barking and Dagenham	3	6
Camden	15	18
Enfield	9	74
Greenwich	13	8
Harrow	16	17
Havering	4	23
Islington	3	13
Lewisham	11	36
Redbridge	3	21
Tower Hamlets	9	1
Wandsworth	2	3

**Figure 5:** How many children went missing from care placements outside of their borough in 2013 compared to 2014.



<b>Borough</b>	<b>Number of missing children</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Barking and Dagenham	2	13
Camden	28	47
Enfield	15	36
Greenwich	30	17
Harrow	9	29
Havering	2	4
Islington	11	36
Lewisham	17	38
Redbridge	13	37
Tower Hamlets	8	20
Wandsworth	8	7

## **Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1:**

The Mayor, who sits on the Congress of Leaders, should encourage every London Borough to review the support they give looked after children and ensure that the needs of these vulnerable young people are being fully met.

### **Recommendation 2:**

At the next Congress of Leaders meeting The Mayor should suggest a review of data collection systems used by London Local Authorities. Encouraging a new system template be put in place and used across all London Local Authorities so that the information collected is both consistent and transparent.

### **Recommendation 3:**

Data on how many looked after children go missing from the care of London boroughs should be uploaded to the London Datastore every month.

### **Recommendation 4:**

Given that the Children Act 2004 requires each police authority (now, in London, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)) and chief police officer of each police force to make sure they protect and promote the welfare of children, the Mayor should hold a summit inviting all London Local Authority leaders, safeguarding boards, MPS and MOPAC representatives as well as special interest groups to establish a Mayoral Task Force for vulnerable children to look at how we can better protect these at risk children who go missing from the care of London boroughs.

### **Recommendation 5:**

At the next Congress of Leaders meeting the Mayor should encourage every London Local Authority to give every councillor corporate parent training and child sexual exploitation awareness training every year. These training packages should be reviewed and standardised across London.

## **Appendix A: Report Methodology**

A Freedom of Information (FOI) request was sent to every London Borough in the first week of January 2015:

***“Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:***

***(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

***(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

***Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 ' 31st December 2014, of:***

***(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

***(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

***Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:***

***(e) placements within your borough?***

***(f) placements outside of your borough?”***



## **APPENDIX B: BOROUGH FOI RESPONSES**



**Subject:**

Freedom of Information Request Response: LBB/88692

**From:** Freedom of Information [<mailto:foi@lbbd.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 13 January 2015 11:35

**To:**

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Request Response: LBB/88692

Dear

Your request for information has now been considered and the information is enclosed.

**Please find figures below. Please note due to low numbers we are not able to give a monthly breakdown, but can give overall figures for 2014.**

Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

- (a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **6**
- (b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **11**

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:

- (c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **13**
- (d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **21**

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

- (e) placements within your borough? **0**
  - (f) placements outside of your borough? **Numbers suppressed under 5**
- If you need any more information, or if we can be of any further help, please contact us.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been dealt with, you can request a review **within 40 days of our response to you**, by e-mailing [foi@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:foi@lbbd.gov.uk), or in writing to the FOI Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Roycraft House, 15 Linton Road, Barking, IG11 8HE.

If you are still not satisfied following the internal review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner, details of which can be found at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/handling.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**



22 January 2015

Our ref: 1461198

Thank you for your request received on 2 January 2015, for the following information:

Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?.

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### **Response**

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Month in 2014	Total of children and young people
January	*5 or less
February	*5 or less
March	*5 or less
April	0
May	*5 or less
June	0
July	0
August	*5 or less
September	*5 or less
October	*5 or less
November	*5 or less
December	*5 or less

\*Please note that we have omitted the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the child/ren. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Month in 2014	Total incidents
January	*5 or less
February	*5 or less
March	*5 or less
April	0
May	*5 or less
June	0
July	0
August	*5 or less
September	*5 or less
October	6
November	*5 or less
December	*5 or less

\*Please note that we have omitted the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the child/ren. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Month in 2014	Total of children and young people
January	*5 or less
February	*5 or less

March	*5 or less
April	*5 or less
May	8
June	*5 or less
July	*5 or less
August	*5 or less
September	*5 or less
October	*5 or less
November	*5 or less
December	6

\*Please note that we have omitted the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the child/ren. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Month in 2014	Total incidents
January	7
February	6
March	7
April	*5 or less
May	8
June	*5 or less
July	9
August	*5 or less
September	*5 or less
October	7
November	*5 or less
December	11

\*Please note that we have omitted the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the child/ren. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?  
None

(f) placements outside of your borough?  
\*5 or less

\*Please note that we have omitted the data where the values are 5 or less as this could reveal the identities of the child/ren. We consider that this information is exempt under section 40 of FOIA. Please see the refusal notice below.

Refusal Notice

*Section 40 FOIA sets out an exemption from the right to know if the information requested is personal information protected by the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).*

*The DPA which governs the processing of personal data and defines personal data “as any data which relate to a living individual who can be identified from those data, or from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller.”*

*Section 40 (2) FOIA exempts disclosure of information if such disclosure would contravene one of the data protection principles. This exemption is absolute and is not subject to the public interest test.*

*The first of the data protection principles requires that personal data is processed fairly and lawfully. It is our view that to disclose the withheld information would breach this principle, in particular, the requirement of fairness because the children have a reasonable expectation of privacy and do not expect that their personal information would be released in a response to a freedom of information request.*

## **Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds, we recommend that you take a look at Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This is an important tool in pushing forward Barnet's Transparency Agenda, bringing together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access:

<http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

## **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the FOI Officer at: The London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP (email [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk)).

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.



**Professional Standards and Quality Assurance**

Civic Offices  
2 Watling Street  
Bexleyheath  
Kent  
DA6 7AT



[www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)

m/r 1688097

y/r

[susan.webb@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:susan.webb@bexley.gov.uk)

The person dealing with this matter is:

Direct Dial 0203 045 3498

Date 26 January 2015

Susan Webb

[REDACTED]  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
110 The Queens Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information received on 2 January 2015 concerning:

*Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:*

*(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1 st January 2014 - 31 st December 2014, of:*

*(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:*

*(e) placements within your borough?*

*(f) placements outside of your borough?*

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that some of the information requested is held by London Borough of Bexley. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

- a) Jan: 1; Feb: no data; Mar: 6; Apr: 1; May: 1; Jun: 1; Jul:3; Aug: 6; Sep:4; Oct: 8; Nov: 1; Dec:5.
- b) Jan: 1; Feb: no data; Mar: 7; Apr: 1; May: 1; Jun: 1; Jul: 4; Aug: 7; Sept: 4; Oct: 10; Nov: 1; Dec: 8
- c) We do not hold this data, as we do not record address on our missing data.
- d) We do not hold this data, as we do not record address on our missing data.
- e) 2
- f) 0

If you are considering making use of this information, please consider whether the Reuse of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 apply. Details of these regulations are available on Bexley Council's website at this address:

<http://www.bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2361>

If you have any questions, please contact me on 0203 045 3498  
or [susan.webb@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:susan.webb@bexley.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can make a complaint and request a review by writing to:

Complaint and Freedom of Information Officer  
London Borough of Bexley  
Civic Offices  
2 Watling Street  
Bexleyheath  
Kent  
DA6 7AT

Or by email to [foi@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:foi@bexley.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Susan Webb  
Manager of LAC Reviewing Service and Independent Reviewing Officers  
Children's Social Care



# Brent

Tel :  
EMail : [graham.genoni@brent.gov.uk](mailto:graham.genoni@brent.gov.uk)  
Web : [www.brent.gov.uk](http://www.brent.gov.uk)

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[REDACTED]  
London Assembly Liberal Democrat Group  
City Hall  
The Queens Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

27 January 2015  
Ref: 2573296

Dear [REDACTED]

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Brent Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

January – Missing Children = 7  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 14

February – Missing Children = 3  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 3

March – Missing Children = 4  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 4

April – Missing Children = 7  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 20

May – Missing Children = 7  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 11

June – Missing Children = 8  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 14

July – Missing Children = 9  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 17

August – Missing Children = 10  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 24

September – Missing Children = 8  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 15

October – Missing Children = 7  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 19

November – Missing Children = 3  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 3

December – Missing Children = 20  
Missing incidents of more than 24 hours = 28

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? Included above

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? It is not possible to split this information retrospectively

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? As above

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough? 0

(f) placements outside of your borough? 2

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Brent Civic Centre  
Engineers Way  
Wembley HA9 0FJ  
brent.foi@mail.icasework.com

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  
Phone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015  
 Your reference:  
 Our reference: 9884395  
 Enquiries to: [foi.csf@camden.gov.uk](mailto:foi.csf@camden.gov.uk)

**Children, Schools and Families Directorate**  
 London Borough of Camden  
 5th Floor  
 5 Pancras Square  
 London N1C 4AG

Tel 020 7974 2850  
[foi.csf@camden.gov.uk](mailto:foi.csf@camden.gov.uk)

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Children, Schools and Families

Your request for information, received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015, has now been considered I will respond to each of your questions in turn below.

*Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:*

*(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	2

*(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	2

*Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014, of:*

*(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6	5	7	5	4	0	4	2	2	6	4

*(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	14	8	19	29	21	0	9	2	3	7	8

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

0.

(f) placements outside of your borough?

3.

We trust that our response is useful to you.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of the way in that your request has been processed then you have the right to issue a complaint. If you wish to issue a complaint, please set out in writing your grounds of appeal (within 2 months of this correspondence) and send it to: **Information & Records Management Team, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London, WC1H 9LP** and your complaint will be administered through our Internal Review procedure. You can also email your appeal to [foireviews@camden.gov.uk](mailto:foireviews@camden.gov.uk)

If you are still not satisfied following the Internal Review, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. They can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF Telephone: 01625 545 700 [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Tanya Bryant  
Information & Records Management Officer  
E-mail: [foi.csf@camden.gov.uk](mailto:foi.csf@camden.gov.uk)  
Phone: 020 7974 2850

InformationTeam  
 Business Support  
 Bernard Weatherill House  
 7<sup>th</sup>Floor - Zone C  
 8 Mint Walk  
 Croydon CR0 1EA  
 Tel/typetalk: 020 8726 6000  
 Minicom: 020 8760 5797

Contact: Ash Riaz  
 information@croydon.gov.uk  
 Our Ref: F/CRT/10003570  
 Date: 04 February 2015

Ms Anna Sharkey

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Request**

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. For ease of reference, I will address each of your questions in turn.

***(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

Please see the first row of the table below. The figures taken from our Children's Recording System are as follows:

Service	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CLA	8	3	7	3	4	7	9	12	9	7	8	7
CIN	6	4	3	3	2	6	5	8	5	5	5	6
NON LAC/CIN	19	18	20	20	20	20	19	17	19	19	20	21
Total	33	25	30	26	26	33	33	37	33	31	33	34

***(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

Service	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CLA	8	3	7	3	4	7	9	12	9	7	8	7
Repeat	2	2	2	3	1	3	5	5	3	2	2	3

We are not confident in the repeat figure because not every repeat incident is recorded as such.

***(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

***(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?***

The Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 specify an "appropriate limit" for the amount of time the council needs to spend undertaking t [REDACTED]. If the council estimates that the time to taken to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested will exceed the appropriate limit, then under Section 12 of the Act, it is not obliged to carry comply with that request.

The appropriate limit currently specified by the Regulations for local authorities is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in locating, retrieving and extracting the information from where it is stored.

We do not currently differentiate between those children going missing placed in borough and out of borough they are all simply missing children. In order to provide the information you have requested, the council would need to undertake a specific piece of work to review manually every child placed outside of the borough in the past year and then calculate how many went missing and how many times.

The cumulative time it would take Council officers to do this would exceed the "appropriate limit". Therefore, we are unable to disclose the information you are seeking as it would take our officers in excess of 18 hours.

***Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:***

***(e) placements within your borough?***

***(f) placements outside of your borough?***

In relation to (e) and (f) above at present we have 3 children currently missing again we do not differentiate between those children going missing placed in borough and out of borough they are all simply missing children.

The Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 specify an "appropriate limit" for the amount of time the council needs to spend undertaking that search. If the council estimates that the time to taken to locate, retrieve and extract the information requested will exceed the appropriate limit, then under Section 12 of the Act, it is not obliged to carry comply with that request.



The appropriate limit currently specified by the Regulations for local authorities is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in locating, retrieving and extracting the information from where it is stored.

In order to provide the information you have requested, the council would need to undertake a specific piece of work to review manually every child who went missing and also look at whether their placement is inside and outside of the borough the cumulative time it would take Council officers to do this would exceed the "appropriate limit". Therefore, we are unable to disclose the information you are seeking as it would take our officers in excess of 18 hours.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the Council has handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act you may ask for an internal review. This should be submitted to us within 40 working days of this response. You can do this by outlining the details of your complaint by:

Email: [information@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:information@croydon.gov.uk)

Writing: Information Team  
London Borough of Croydon  
Bernard Weatherill House  
7<sup>th</sup>Floor - Zone C  
8 Mint Walk  
Croydon CR0 1EA

Any requests received after the 40 working day time limit will be considered only at the discretion of the council.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

Ash Riaz  
Information Coordinator  
Croydon Council



**Ealing Council**

Anna Sharkey  
[Anna.Sharkey@london.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Sharkey@london.gov.uk)

Ealing Council  
Freedom of Information  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, North East  
Perceval House  
14-16 Uxbridge Road  
London W5 2HL  
Tel: (020) 8825 5000  
Email: [foirequests@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@ealing.gov.uk)

Your ref:                      Our ref:                      Extension:                      Date:  
   15/001                      0208 825 8367                      4<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear **MS Sharkey**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your request for information received by the Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015. It has been assessed and the following information is provided in response:

**I would like to make the following freedom of information request:**

**Please state figures broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 of:**

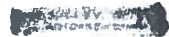
**(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Month	Placed Out of Borough
Jan-14	1
Feb-14	0
Mar-14	0
Apr-14	0
May-14	2
Jun-14	1
Jul-14	2
Aug-14	2
Sep-14	1
Oct-14	1
Nov-14	1
Dec-14	0

Where "living in borough" has been defined as the child's main address (i.e. not placement address) being within borough boundaries. In instances where a child has had multiple incidents of going missing from care during the year, the month of the first incident has been listed above

**(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Month	Placed Out of Borough
Jan-14	1
Feb-14	0
Mar-14	0
Apr-14	0
May-14	2
Jun-14	3
Jul-14	2
Aug-14	2
Sep-14	1
Oct-14	2
Nov-14	4
Dec-14	0



Where "living in borough" has been defined as the child's main address (i.e. not placement address) being within borough boundaries

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:

**(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Month	Placed Out of Borough
Jan-14	1
Feb-14	0
Mar-14	0
Apr-14	0
May-14	2
Jun-14	1
Jul-14	2
Aug-14	2
Sep-14	0
Oct-14	1
Nov-14	1
Dec-14	0

Please note that this information may be subject to copyright. Supply of the information to you does not confer an automatic right to re-use it in a way that could infringe copyright.

**(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Month	Residence Out of Borough
Jan-14	0
Feb-14	0
Mar-14	0
Apr-14	0
May-14	0
Jun-14	0
Jul-14	0
Aug-14	0
Sep-14	0
Oct-14	0
Nov-14	0
Dec-14	0

Where "resident outside of your borough" has been defined as the child's main address (i.e. not placement address) being outside of borough boundaries

**Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:**

**(e) placements within your borough?**

0

**(f) placements outside of your borough?**

3

You are free to use this information for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. It may also be used for the purposes of news reporting. Any other type of re-use, for example publishing the information, issuing copies to the public or marketing, will require our permission as copyright holder. If you intend to re-use this information in this manner you must apply to us.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you can request an internal review. Details of the Freedom of Information complaints process can be found at:

[http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200640/freedom\\_of\\_information/1550/making\\_a\\_complaint\\_or\\_appeal](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200640/freedom_of_information/1550/making_a_complaint_or_appeal)

Your request for an internal review should be submitted to us within 40 working days of your receipt of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at our discretion.

Please note that this information may be subject to copyright. Supply of the information to you does not confer an automatic right to re-use it in a way that could infringe copyright.

If you remain dissatisfied by the outcome of the Internal Review you have the right to submit your complaint to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Yours sincerely,

**Davina Donnelly**  
Freedom of Information Officer

**From:** Concetta Nobile [mailto:Concetta.Nobile@enfield.gov.uk] **On Behalf Of** SCS-FOI-Mailbox

**Sent:** 26 January 2015 13:08

**To:**

**Cc:** SCS-FOI-Mailbox

**Subject:** SCS FOI 10772/14 how many looked after children living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

[SEC=PROTECT:MANAGEMENT]

Classification: PROTECT - MANAGEMENT

Dear

Please see the response below to your FOI request dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015. I can confirm that the London Borough of Enfield holds this information.

### YOUR FOI REQUEST AND RESPONSE

Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

Please see table below for answers to all questions.

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

QUESTION		Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
A	NUMBER OF LAC WHO WENT MISSING	1	1	0	5	2	3	10	15	11	11	10	5
B	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF LAC WHO WENT MISSING	2	1	0	7	2	3	40	38	24	19	21	10
C	NUMBER OF LAC WHO WENT MISSING PLACED OUT OF BOROUGH	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	7	5	8	5	3
D	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF LAC WHO WENT MISSING PLACED OUT OF BOROUGH	2	1	0	3	1	0	17	16	8	16	14	6

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?

As at 23/01/15 there currently no reported missing LAC

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to:

Lesley Morton  
PO BOX 56  
Civic Centre  
Silver Street  
Enfield  
EN1 3XQ

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,  
Concetta Nobile  
Information Governance Officer  
020 8379 3035  
[SCS-FOI-mailbox@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:SCS-FOI-mailbox@enfield.gov.uk)

*Enfield Council is committed to serving the whole borough fairly, delivering excellent services and building strong communities*

Classification: PROTECT - MANAGEMENT



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Enfield Council is committed to serving the whole borough fairly, delivering excellent services and building strong communities. Opinions expressed in this email are those of the individual and not necessarily those of the London Borough of Enfield. This email and any attachments or files transmitted with it are strictly confidential and intended solely for the named addressee. It may contain privileged and confidential information and if you are not the intended recipient and receive it in error you must not copy, distribute or use the communication in any other way. All traffic handled by the Government Connect Secure Extranet may be subject to recording/and or monitoring in accordance with relevant legislation.

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This email has been scanned for viruses but we cannot guarantee that it will be free of viruses or malware. The recipient should perform their own virus checks.



**Subject:** RFI/08044 - Missing Children

**From:** foi [<mailto:foi@royalgreenwich.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 11 February 2015 13:12

**To:**

**Subject:** RFI/08044 - Missing Children

Dear

**Freedom of Information request: RFI/08044**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request, dated 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2015

Our response in **bold** is submitted against each question below.

Please state figures broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 of:

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **8**

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **16**

Month	Number
Jan	0
Feb	1
Mar	3
April	0
May	3
Jun	4
Jul	2
Aug	1
Sep	0
Oct	0
Nov	0
Dec	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **17**

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **38**

Month	Number
Jan	2
Feb	2
Mar	1
Apr	1
May	3
Jun	3
Jul	4
Aug	1
Sep	6
Oct	2
Nov	6
Dec	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough? **2**

(f) placements outside of your borough? **4**

If you have any queries about this correspondence, please contact me, quoting the reference number above.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you can ask for an Internal Review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request. If you wish to do this, please contact us, setting out why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the Internal Review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Internal Review procedure provided by the Council.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Edwards  
Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance  
Chief Executive's Department  
Royal Borough of Greenwich

**LGC Council of the Year 2013**

☎ 020 8921 5132

✉ The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ

🌐 [www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

Delisa Trought  
Executive Support Officer  
London Borough of Hackney  
Children & Young People's Services  
1 Hillman Street  
London E8 1DY

020 8356 5000

[informationmanagement@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:informationmanagement@hackney.gov.uk)

REF: FOI15-0107-10038

***Response letter sent by email***

11 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 07 January 2015, in which you requested information concerning the amount of looked after children and young people that have gone missing for more than 24 hours between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 directs local authorities to confirm whether or not requested information is held. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held and respond to your request as below.

- 1. How many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Response:** Under section 22 of the FOIA we are not obligated to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have also considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, this information is not held in a readily retrievable format. Therefore, provision of this information at this time would require manual review and processing of a large volume of data, considerably exceeding the limit to time and resource under FOIA. The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 has set the appropriate limit as £450 based on a charge of £25 per hour. Section 12 of the Act states that the Council is not obligated to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the costs of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is represented by the estimated cost of one person spending 2 and half working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information requested. Consequently the Council is not obligated to respond to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**2. How many incidents has there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours, between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014?**

**Response:** Same as Question 1

**3. How many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Response:** Same as Question 1 .

**4. How many incidents has there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Response:** Same as Question 1

**5. Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hour from placements within your borough and from placements outside of your borough?**

**Response:** Same as Question 1

Please note the information provided to you in this response is still covered by copyright legislation. You are not authorised to re-use this information for commercial or research purposes as defined by the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. If you do wish to re-use this information please contact:

The Information Governance Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
6-15 Florfield Road, London E8 1DT

If you are dissatisfied with this response and wish to appeal, please write to the above address and your complaint will be dealt with through our Internal Review procedure.

If you are still not satisfied following the Internal Review, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. He can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545 700

[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Sheila Durr**  
Assistant Director Children and Young People Services

**Hammersmith and Fulham**

Hayden Glassey  
Senior Investigations & Information Officer, H and F In Touch

Room 229  
Hammersmith Town Hall  
King Street  
Hammersmith London  
W6 9JU  
Tel: 020 8753 2532  
Email: [Hayden.Glassey@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:Hayden.Glassey@lbhf.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.lbhf.gov.uk](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk)



30 January 2015

Ms. [REDACTED]  
Research and Support Officer  
London Assembly Liberal Democrat Group  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
LONDON  
SE1 2AA

Our reference: 744948

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 2 January 2015.

**Your request**

*Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:*

*(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014, of:*

*(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:*

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?.

### Our response

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Hammersmith and Fulham.

### LBHF Missing Children 24 Hours +

Month went missing	Non LAC		LAC		Total	
	Missing episodes	Children Missing	Missing episodes	Children Missing	Missing episodes	Children
Jan-14	1	1	4	4	5	5
Feb-14	2	2	2	2	4	4
Mar-14	3	3	3	3	6	6
Apr-14	6	6	5	4	11	10
May-14	4	3	3	3	7	6
Jun-14	3	2	4	4	7	6
Jul-14	7	4	7	5	14	9
Aug-14	5	5	8	8	13	13
Sep-14	0	0	2	2 (OOB)	2	2
Oct-14	10	8 (7 IN, 1 OOB)	10	5 (4 OOB, 1 IN)	20	13
Nov-14	8	7 (IN)	19	12 (9 OOB, 3 IN)	27	19
Dec-14	8	7 (5 IN, 2 OOB)	17	9 (2 IN, 7 OOB)	25	16

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough? - Nil

(f) placements outside of your borough? - Nil

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this response, please contact the h&f InTouch team, who will decide whether to refer the matter to the Council's Information Manager for an internal review.

You can write to the h&f InTouch team at Room 229, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU, or email: [handfintouch@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:handfintouch@lbhf.gov.uk). If you are registered for self-service, via the Council's My Account portal, you can also do this online: [Click here to complete the form](#)

You can also obtain further information from the Information Commissioner's Office at:  
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9  
5AF

Tel: 08456 306060

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Enquiries: [www.ico.gov.uk/Global/online\\_enquiries.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/online_enquiries.aspx)

Yours sincerely

**Hayden Glassey**  
**Senior Investigations & Information Officer**







Ms [REDACTED]  
Research and Support Officer  
LONDON ASSEMBLY Liberal Democrat Group

Your ref:  
Date: 3 March 2015  
Our ref: LBH/3994615  
Direct dial: 020 8489 2556  
Email: sue.dyos@haringey.gov.uk

Via email: anna.sharkey@london.gov.uk

Dear [REDACTED],

**Internal Review of the Freedom of Information Act/ Environmental Information Regulations request reference: LBH/3885715**

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to review the response we have sent to your Freedom of Information / Environmental Information Regulations request.

In your original request of 2 January you asked various questions relating to children in the care of the borough that go missing, how many times and from what type of placement. You requested that the figures be broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014.

We responded to your request on 29 January and explained that due to the low numbers involved in providing the figures broken down month by month as requested, that we believed it could lead to individual children being identifiable.

The response explained that if it were possible to identify the individuals involved (from the information that we provide and other information that may be available) it would be a breach of the Data Protection Act to disclose the information. Where it would breach the Data Protection Act to disclose information, that information is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act under Section 40(2).

Our general approach is not to provide a number when that number is 5 or less in order to minimise the risk of identification.

On 5 February you asked us to reconsider our decision and to provide you with the broken down figures. You indicated that other London Boroughs had done so.

I have reviewed your request and the response that we provided and, I am sorry to disappoint you but I do not agree that we should provide you with the monthly figures as you have requested. As explained if the number is less than five, we do not provide disaggregated figures to minimise any risk of identification.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on anonymising data suggests that when small numbers are involved, there is a possibility of re-identification of individuals by either the process of analysing the data or combining it with other data which may be available from other sources. This could result in the individuals becoming

identifiable. The guidance also suggests that small numbers in small geographical areas present an increased risk of this occurring. As we are referring to vulnerable children we tend to be cautious and so do not release information where the numbers involved are less than five.

I accept you report that other London Boroughs may have provided you with full data as you requested; however each local authority needs to make it's own decision. It may be possible that if others have larger numbers then there is not the same risk of being identified.

I hope that you are satisfied with my response to the Internal Review. If you are dissatisfied, you may complain to the Information Commissioner, who may be able to help you. Please note that if you wish to refer this case to the Information Commissioner, they ask that you do so within two months of our response to you.

You can contact the Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Sue Dyos  
Feedback Team Leader

**Miss Anna Sharkey**

The London Assembly  
Liberal Democrat Group,  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
GREATER LONDON  
SE1 2AA

27 January 2015

Our ref: 1598395

**[REDACTED]**  
Thank you for your request for information received on 2 January 2015.

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Harrow Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

You have made a request for data for Children Looked After (CLA) who were missing over 24 hours. Revised statutory guidance requires us to collect data on all children who go missing for any length of time. We collect data for all instances of children going missing and record data for 'date of going missing' and 'date of return' See: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/307867/Statutory\\_Guidance\\_-\\_Missing\\_from\\_care\\_3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care_3.pdf)

**For the purpose of this request the data provided covers CLA who went missing for at least two calendar days**

*Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:*

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	0	2	3	2	0	3	0	3	1	2	0

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	0	2	4	2	0	3	0	3	1	2	0

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	1	2	5	2	1	1	4	1	5	3	3

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	1	3	6	4	2	1	6	1	6	5	4

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

0

*(f) placements outside of your borough?*

0

If you have any questions, please contact me on [peter.singh@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:peter.singh@harrow.gov.uk).

If you are dissatisfied with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request an internal review of Harrow Council's decision by writing to:

Isabella Uzodike  
Harrow Council  
Civic Centre,  
Station Road  
Harrow  
HA1 2XF

Email: [Isabella.uzodike@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Isabella.uzodike@harrow.gov.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: <http://www.ico.org.uk/complaints/handling/complain>

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Peter Singh  
[peter.singh@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:peter.singh@harrow.gov.uk)



Anna Sharkey

**From:** Accessinfo <Accessinfo@havering.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 January 2015 14:28  
**To:** Anna Sharkey  
**Subject:** AIR9192S - Request for Information - Response  
**Attachments:** Response Reply AIR9192 KB.XLSX

Our Reference: AIR9192S

Dear Ms Sharkey,

### Access to Information

I refer to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request has been considered and the information held by Children and Young Peoples Service is attached.

<b>Q1</b>	Please state figures broken down by month from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December  (a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
<b>Response</b>	See data attached
<b>Q2</b>	(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
<b>Response</b>	See data attached
<b>Q3</b>	Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December  (c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
<b>Response</b>	See data attached
<b>Q4</b>	(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people in your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
<b>Response</b>	See data attached
<b>Q5</b>	Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours from:  (e) placements within your borough?
<b>Response</b>	See data attached
<b>Q6</b>	(f) placements outside of your borough?
<b>Response</b>	See data attached

I trust the information is of use to you and will close your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled you have the right to make a complaint. Please put the details in writing and return to me at the above email address. your complaint will then be dealt with in line with our corporate complaints procedure. You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Office of the Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Ms Kazazic

Access to Information

Executive Support & Information

London Borough of Havering

Town Hall, Main Road, Romford RM1 3BD

t: 01708 432476

w: [www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk)

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MISSING FROM CARE (OVER 24 HOURS)- 1ST JANUARY 2014 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2014

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
MONTH	NUMBER OF MISSING LAC PLACED IN BOROUGH	NUMBER OF MISSING INCIDENTS PLACED IN BOROUGH	NUMBER OF MISSING LAC PLACED OUT OF BOROUGH	NUMBER OF MISSING INCIDENTS PLACED OUT OF BOROUGH
Jan-14	3	5	1	1
Feb-14	1	1	0	0
Mar-14	2	3	0	0
Apr-14	2	4	0	0
May-14	2	2	1	2
Jun-14	2	5	2	2
Jul-14	2	2	0	0
Aug-14	2	2	0	0
Sep-14	3	3	0	0
Oct-14	1	1	0	0
Nov-14	2	2	0	0
Dec-14	1	2	0	0
	Q5	Q6		
	CURRENTLY MISSING FROM CARE - PLACED IN BOROUGH	CURRENTLY MISSING FROM CARE - PLACED OUT OF BOROUGH		
	0	1		



**Subject:**

FW: FOI 7596

**From:** FOI [<mailto:foi@hillingdon.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 30 January 2015 13:37

**To:**

**Cc:** SCH FOI

**Subject:** RE: FOI 7596

Re: FOI 7596

Dear

I am writing in response to your email below.

I understand you are seeking the following information:

**a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	3	2	1	3	3	3	1	6	6	5

**b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	6	6	5

**Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:**

**c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	4	3	3

**d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3	13	1	2	0	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
---	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



**Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:**

- e) placements within your borough? = 1**
- f) placements outside of your borough? = 2**

If you have any queries regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you wish to request an internal review of our response you should write, within 2 months, to:

Office Managing Partner, Legal Services, Civic Centre, High St, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW (or via email to [foi@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:foi@hillington.gov.uk) marked for the attention of the Office Managing Partner).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Christine Bliss-Johnson  
Assistant to the Freedom of Information Officer  
Legal Services (3E 04)  
London Borough of Hillingdon  
Civic Centre  
High Street  
Uxbridge  
UB8 1UW  
01895 55(6923)



# ISLINGTON

Children's Services Department  
222 Upper Street,  
London N1 1X  
T 020 7527 5624  
W [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)  
E [eleanor.schooling@islington.gov.uk](mailto:eleanor.schooling@islington.gov.uk)

Ms Anna Sharkey  
[Anna.Sharkey@london.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Sharkey@london.gov.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF No:488444**

Thank you for your information request, received on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015.

Your request with our response is as follows:

Please state figures broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 of:

- (a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
- (b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:

- (c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
- (d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

- (e) placements within your borough?
- (f) placements outside of your borough?

**Please see our response attached for all of the above questions.**



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



If you have a complaint about the handling of this information request, please contact: Information Complaints, Corporate Resources, Room G17, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD. Email: [infocomplaints@islington.gov.uk](mailto:infocomplaints@islington.gov.uk)

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner's Office, at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Web: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



Eleanor Schooling  
Corporate Director of Children's Services



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



**Subject:** FW: Freedom of Information Act request. FOI2015-0001  
**Attachments:** FW: 2015-0001 - FOI Approval requested - Deadline 29 Jan 2015.

**From:** [Gershan.Khela@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:Gershan.Khela@rbkc.gov.uk) [<mailto:Gershan.Khela@rbkc.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 29 January 2015 10:53  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information Act request. FOI2015-0001

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REF: 2015-0001

I am responding to your requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which we received on 2 January 2015, for information held by the Council. Please see attached.

### Complaints

I trust this has satisfied your request. Should you be unhappy with the handling of your request, the Council has an internal complaints process for handling FOIA complaints. Complaints are reviewed by the Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer or her nominee. A form is available from our website to lodge your complaint <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/councilanddemocracy/freedomofinformation.aspx> Please contact us if you do not have website access and we can provide you with a copy of the form. Following this review, should you still be unhappy with how your information request has been handled, you have a further right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who is responsible for ensuring compliance with FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Gershan





**From:** Mpande.Kapotwe@lbhf.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 28 January 2015 12:14  
**To:** foi@rbkc.gov.uk  
**Cc:** Robin.Yu@rbkc.gov.uk  
**Subject:** FW: 2015-0001 - FOI Approval requested - Deadline 29 Jan 2015.

Dear RBKC

Please see response to 2015-0001.

RBKC FOI 2015 - 0001

Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

(a) How many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

In total there were 6 individual LAC (7 episodes) who went missing for 24hrs+ in RBKC in the year 2014.  
 \*NB: In the table below, the number of individual LAC missing per month are counted.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
a) In Borough LAC Missing for 24hrs+*						1		1			1	1

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
b) Instances of In Borough LAC Missing for 24hrs+								3		1		

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

\*NB: In the table below, the number of individual LAC missing per month are counted.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
c) Out of Borough LAC Missing for 24hrs+*											1	1

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
d) Instances of Out of Borough LAC Missing for 24hrs+												1

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

Nil cases



(f) placements outside of your borough?

Nil cases

Regards

Mpande

Mpande Kapotwe  
Customer Care and Complaints Officer  
Tri-borough Children's Services  
2nd Floor  
Kensington Town Hall  
Hornton Street  
London W8 7NX

Tel: 020 7745 6501 Fax: 02087534209

Email: [mpande.kapotwe@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:mpande.kapotwe@lbhf.gov.uk)<mailto:mpande.kapotwe@lbhf.gov.uk>

[www.lbhf.gov.uk](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk)<<http://www.lbhf.gov.uk>>

Webservice for 0-19 year olds: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/fisd](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/fisd)<<http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/fisd>>

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Help us keep your council tax bill down and protect spending on vital public services - use our website to find information, view your account, make payments, apply for services and report problems.

**Looked After Children, Adoption and Permanency  
Mac Heath**

CAS - 544389

26<sup>th</sup> January 2015



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KINGSTON**  
UPON THAMES

Guildhall  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 1EU

[REDACTED]  
Research and Support Officer  
LONDONASSEMBLY Liberal Democrat Group  
City Hall,  
The Queen's Walk,  
London SE1 2AA

Website: [www.kingston.gov.uk](http://www.kingston.gov.uk)

Dear [REDACTED] Ms Sharkey

**Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has now been considered and the information requested enclosed.

Please note, where numbers are below 5, are stated as 'Less than 5' to protect the identity of individuals.

Please state figures broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 of:

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **Less than 5**

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **Less than 5**

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **7**

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? **13**

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough? **0**

(f) placements outside of your borough? **Less than 5**

Further information about the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane, Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545 700  
Website: <http://www.ico.org.uk/>

You can make future requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on our website using the following link:

[http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200278/freedom\\_of\\_information/716/form\\_make\\_a\\_freedom\\_of\\_information\\_request](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200278/freedom_of_information/716/form_make_a_freedom_of_information_request)

Yours sincerely,



Mac Heath  
Head of Looked After Children, Adoption and Permanency



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

If this letter is not clear, please post it to: FREEPOST RBK BETTER LETTERS or ring 020 8547 5000.



Anna Sharkey

06 February 2015

Our ref: IR95394

Dear Requestor,

Thank you for your request for information received on 2 January 2015. This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

**You asked:**

**Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:**

- a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
- b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

**Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 ' 31st December 2014, of:**

- c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
- d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

**Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:**

- e) placements within your borough?
- f) placements outside of your borough?

**Our response:**

a) to d)	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours	1	2	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours	1	2	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

2.

- e) *placements within your borough – 1*
- f) *placements outside of your borough - 4*

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been dealt with you can request an internal review. Tell us why you are unhappy with our response within 40 working days, and it will be looked at afresh. We will aim to provide you with our review response within 20 working days. By email: [foi@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:foi@lambeth.gov.uk) (Please quote the reference number above) or by writing to:

Freedom of Information  
Olive Morris House Brixton Hill  
London  
SW2 1RD

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the review you have a further right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, who regulates the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. The Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

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

Enquiry line: 0303 123 1113

Thank you for your interest in Lambeth Council.

**Jéanine Palmer**  
**Complaints and Information Officer**  
**Corporate Complaints Unit**  
London Borough of Lambeth  
Enabling  
Team Tel: 020 7926 0547  
Website: [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)

Lambeth Town Hall  
Brixton Hill  
SW2 1RW

**Lambeth – a cooperative council**

**Anna Sharkey**

**From:** Casework, CYP <CYP.Casework@lewisham.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 February 2015 07:41  
**To:** **Anna Sharkey**  
**Cc:** Casework, CYP; Foi  
**Subject:** FOI 301982

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear **[REDACTED]**

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**Reference No: 301982**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

**Please state figures broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 of:**

**(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:**

**(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:**

**(e) placements within your borough?**

**(f) placements outside of your borough?**

<b>For the Period 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 Missing Children &amp; Missing Episodes</b>			
	<b>Number of Children /Young People who are Looked after by the Borough of Lewisham who have gone missing for more than 24 hours</b>	<b>Number of Missing Incidents of Children /Young People who are Looked after by the Borough of Lewisham , that have gone missing more than 24 hours</b>	<b>Number of Children/Young People who are Looked After by the Borough of Lewisham who are Currently Missing as at 31st Dec'14</b>
<b>Placed Within Borough</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Section 40</b>
Jan-14	2	2	

Feb-14	7	9	
Mar-14	2	4	
Apr-14	3	4	
May-14	0	0	
Jun-14	1	1	
Jul-14	2	2	
Aug-14	2	2	
Sep-14	3	3	
Oct-14	3	5	
Nov-14	0	0	
Dec-14	1	1	
<b>Total Placed within borough</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	
<b>Placed Outside of Borough</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>Section 40</b>
Jan-14	6	6	
Feb-14	4	5	
Mar-14	3	5	
Apr-14	4	8	
May-14	5	7	
Jun-14	2	4	
Jul-14	5	5	
Aug-14	4	6	
Sep-14	0	0	
Oct-14	3	3	
Nov-14	1	1	
Dec-14	1	1	
<b>Total Placed outside borough</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	

We apply Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 'Personal information', to questions (e) and (f) of your request:

Section 40 states:

- (1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
- (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if-
  - (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
  - (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.
- (3) The first condition is-
  - (a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene-
    - (i) any of the data protection principles, or
    - (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and
  - (b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.
- (4) The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject's right of access to personal data).
- (5) The duty to confirm or deny-
  - (a) does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1), and
  - (b) does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that either-
    - (i) the giving to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 or would do so if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of that Act were disregarded, or
    - (ii) by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(a) of that Act (data subject's right to be informed whether personal data being processed).



(6) In determining for the purposes of this section whether anything done before 24th October 2007 would contravene any of the data protection principles, the exemptions in Part III of Schedule 8 to the Data Protection Act 1998 shall be disregarded.

(7) In this section-

"the data protection principles" means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;

"data subject" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act;

"personal data" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.

This acts as an exemption notice. We have applied this exemption as Section 40(2). It is important to remember that when information is released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it is considered released to the wider public. Any such disclosure of personal information would not be compliant with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

We confirm that the information is held.

This is an absolute exemption and therefore does not require the balancing of the public interests. For further information on personal data please refer to the following link:

[http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data\\_protection/detailed\\_specialist\\_guides/personal\\_data\\_flowchart\\_v1\\_with\\_preface001.pdf](http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/personal_data_flowchart_v1_with_preface001.pdf)

We hope you find this information useful.

You are free to use the information provided for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, requires the permission of the copyright holder. You may apply for permission to re-use this information by submitting a request to [foi@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:foi@lewisham.gov.uk)

You have a right of appeal against this response. If you wish to appeal you must do so in writing to the Corporate Information Manager at the following address:

Corporate Information Team

London Borough of Lewisham

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Town Hall Chambers

Catford

London

SE6 4RU

or

[Freedom.Information@Lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Freedom.Information@Lewisham.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Gemma Varela

Childrens Complaints & Representations Officer

Quality Assurance Service

020 831 47435

[gemma.varela@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.varela@lewisham.gov.uk)

Regards,

**Gemma Varela**

Complaints and Representations Officer

Children's Social Care

☎ 020 8314 7435

✉ [gemma.varela@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.varela@lewisham.gov.uk)

✉ London Borough of Lewisham

3rd Floor, Laurence House

Catford, SE6 2RU

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sarah Daly <Sarah.Daly@merton.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 March 2015 11:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** CSF FOI Requests; Foi Responses  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 / Environmental Information Regulations 2004 Information request**

Thank you for your request for information, which was received on 2 January 2015. I would take this opportunity to apologise for the delay in our response. We have now considered your request as set out below.

You asked:

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?

Our response:

Unfortunately we can not provide this information because locating and retrieving it would exceed the time limit for requests, which is 18 hours (or £450) as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. Due to the current recording process we are not currently able to run this information from our electronic system using an automated report. For us to provide this information would take in excess of 18 hours as we would have to review all of our looked after children on a case by case basis. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this is a Refusal Notice. The information requested is exempt under Section 12 of the Act, which is that the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Please consider refining your request so that it can be answered within the time limit. Please contact me if you would like some advice on refining your request so that it can be answered within the time limit.

If you have any queries or concerns about this please contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact Karin Lane, the Head of Information Governance at Merton Council, Civic Centre, Morden, SM4 5DX or e-mail [foi@merton.gov.uk](mailto:foi@merton.gov.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Daly  
Service Manager Permanency, LAC and Care Leavers.

**Sarah Daly**

Service Manager, LAC, Permanency & Placements  
London Borough of Merton  
Merton Civic Centre  
London Rd  
Morden SM4 5DX

Tel: 0208 545 4658  
email: [sarah.daly@merton.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.daly@merton.gov.uk)

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**Henry Jackson-Koufi**  
Head of Complaints,  
Members Enquiries  
& Freedom of  
Information

**Complaints, Members  
Enquiries & Freedom of  
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Ask for: Information  
Governance

Complaints, Members Enquiries &  
Information Governance

Newham Dockside  
1000 Dockside Road  
London

Your ref :

E16 2QU

Our ref: FOI/ E21545

Tel: 020 8430 2000

Fax: 020 8430 1504

Date: 10/02/2015

Email:

[information.governance@newham.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@newham.gov.uk)

Web: [www.newham.gov.uk](http://www.newham.gov.uk)

Ms Anna Sharkey  
[Anna.Sharkey@london.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Sharkey@london.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Sharkey

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Request for Information: Information Provided**  
**Please quote our reference: E21545**  
**Subject: Missing from care**

We write with regard to your recent enquiry for information held by the Council under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We trust that the information provided is satisfactory. You are free to use the information for your personal use only. Any other type of re-use, for example, publishing the information or issuing copies to the public will require permission of the copyright owner. If the Council is the copyright owner, a licence can be applied for under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

For future reference we publish information on our website, including the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and summary of Freedom of Information requests and responses that may be of help to you in searching for information. Our website is mentioned above.

It is important to note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 the Council asks not to receive unsolicited marketing communication.

### **Request**

Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?

## **Response**

Question a-d) The Council's data systems monitor and track missing episodes of all Looked after Children, however you have requested data for those that have been placed within the borough. In order to collate this information, it would be necessary for an officer to manually interrogate record by searching through the child's file to see whether they are placed within the borough. The files vary in volume and content of related correspondence, therefore such manual retrieval of information would exceed the appropriate limit.

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Council has a right to refuse a request for information held if the cost of complying with a request exceeds the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for local authorities is £450 or 2.5 days or 18 hours. We believe in this case such an exemption applies and has decided to refuse your request for information under section 12(1) of the Act.

### **12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

e) Of the current Looked after Children (as at 30/01/2015), none are missing from placement.

f) Of the current Looked after Children (as at 30/01/2015), none are missing from placement.

If you require any further information or are not happy with our response please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team on (020) 8430 2000 or email us at [information.governance@newham.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@newham.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

## **Complaints, Members Enquiries and Information Governance**

## FOI Request 108158

Produced 20/01/2015 by London Borough of Redbridge

Missing For Greater Than 24 Hours  
Placement Location Inside LA Boundary

a)

Month	Count of Cases
February	1
March	1
April	1
May	1
July	2
August	1
October	4
November	5
December	5
Grand Total	21

Missing For Greater Than 24 Hours  
Placement Location Outside LA Boundary

c)

Month	Count of Cases
January	3
February	2
May	3
June	2
August	2
September	2
October	9
November	9
December	5
Grand Total	37

Missing For Greater Than 24 Hours  
Placement Location Inside LA Boundary

b)

Month	Count of Incident
February	1
March	1
April	1
May	1
July	4
August	1
October	14
November	8
December	10
Grand Total	41

Missing For Greater Than 24 Hours  
Placement Location Outside LA Boundary

d)

Month	Count of Incident
January	4
February	3
May	3
June	2
August	7
September	6
October	17
November	32
December	30
Grand Total	104

e) 1 LBR Looked After Child placed within Borough is currently missing and has been for more than 24 hours

f) 0 LBR Looked After Children placed outside borough currently missing.

### Caveats

Please note the following:

#### Recording Practice Amendments

Between January and September, missing incidents for LAC cases of less than 24 hours were not recorded due in part to technical limitations in the recording method, as well as the police's view that until a child has been gone for this time period they should not be considered missing. Both of these concerns were resolved, and from October recording practice changed to record missing incidents of less than 24 hours. The recording process was also made much simpler for the worker, which, combined with increased focus from management on accurate recording, has resulted in the greater figures for the final months of 2014.

#### Result Definition

Tables a and c called for the number of total cases while b and d were total missing incidents. Because a monthly breakdown was requested, the same CASE would be counted once in each month they went missing 1 or more times. If a young person went missing twice in January and once in December, they would count for 2 in the Grand Total in the Case Tables, and for 3 in the Incident Tables.





## Anna Sharkey

---

**From:** Natalie Lacey (Previously Dewing) <Natalie.Lacey@richmond.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 30 January 2015 14:51  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000/  
Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Our Ref: NL/e16918

Dear [REDACTED],

Your request for information which was received on 2 January 2015 has been considered.

Please find our response below.

Your request:

I would like to make the following freedom of information request: Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours? Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?

Our response:

Please note where numbers are low we have replaced the actual figures with 'less than 5' so that individuals cannot be identified.

- a) January 2014 - May 2014 - 0
- June 2014 - less than 5
- July 2014 - less than 5
- August 2014 - less than 5
- September 2014 - less than 5
- October 2014 - less than 5
- November 2014 - less than 5
- December 2014 - less than 5

- b) January 2014 - May 2014 - 0

June 2014 – Less than 5  
July 2014 – Less than 5  
August 2014 – Less than 5  
September 2014 – Less than 5  
October 2014 – Less than 5  
November 2014 – Less than 5  
December 2014 – Less than 5

c) January 2014 - less than 5  
February 2014 - 5  
March - less than 5  
April - 0  
May 2014 - less than 5  
June 2014 - less than 5  
July 2014 - less than 5  
August 2014 - less than 5  
September 2014 - less than 5  
October 2014 - less than 5  
November 2014 - less than 5  
December 2014 - less than 5

d) January 2014 – less than 5  
February 2014 - 7  
March 2014 – less than 5  
April 2014 - 0  
May 2014 - 11  
June 2014 – less than 5  
July 2014 - 0  
August 2014 – less than 5  
September 2014 - 5  
October 2014 – less than 5  
November 2014 – less than 5  
December 2014 – less than 5

e) Less than 5

f) None

Kind regards

**Natalie Lacey**

Data Protection and Information Officer  
Community Engagement and Accountability Team  
Adult and Community Services  
0208 891 7058  
[natalie.lacey@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.lacey@richmond.gov.uk)

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Anna Sharkey

**From:** Cathy Adeyemi <Cathy.Adeyemi@southwark.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 January 2015 17:00  
**To:** Anna Sharkey  
**Subject:** Information request (ref: 484291)

Southwark Council - Information request

Our reference: 484291

Dear Anna Sharkey,

**Re: Your request for information: 484291**

Thank you for your request for information that was received on 2 January 2015 in which you requested:

*Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:*

*(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

A total of less than 10 children who are looked after by the Local Authority and living within the borough have gone missing for more than 24hours between 01 January 2014 -December 2014. [Children counted as missing only once in any one month].

*(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

There are less than 10 incidents where looked after children who live within the borough have gone missing for more than 24hours between 01 January 2014 -December 2014

*Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 ' 31st December 2014, of:*

*(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

46 looked after children, living out of the borough, have gone missing for more than 24hours between 01 January 2014 -December 2014. [Children counted as missing only once in any one month]

*(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

There are 132 incidents where looked after children, living outside the borough, have gone missing for more than 24hours between 01 January 2014 -December 2014

	Looked after Children living within the Borough that went missing for more than 24hours		Looked after Children living outside the Borough that went missing for more than 24hours	
	Qa. No of LAC that went missing more than 24hours	Qb. No of Incident that LAC went missing more than 24hours	Qc. No of LAC that went missing more than 24hours	Qd. No of Incident that LAC went missing more than 24hours
January 2014	0	0	X	X
February 2014	0	0	0	0
March 2014	x	x	X	X
April 2014	0	0	X	X
May 2014	x	x	X	14
June 2014	0	0	10	15
July 2014	x	x	X	X
August 2014	0	0	10	15
September 2014	x	x	10	15
October 2014	0	0	X	14
November 2014	0	0	12	23
December 2014	X	x	14	24

X means the figure is low enough to be identifiable.

*Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:*

*(e) placements within your borough?*

*There is no looked after children/young people living within the borough currently missing from placement for more than 24hours.*

*(f) placements outside of your borough?*

A total of 11 looked after children/young people living outside the borough are currently missing from placement for more than 24hours.

The council has information which provides a further breakdown of the figures as outlined in your request, but has decided to withhold this information.

Personal data of any other person (third party data) is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act if the information constitutes personal data (as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998) and disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles.

The council maintains that to provide a more detailed breakdown would involve the release of figures which are sufficiently small such that the release of the precise figure may enable individual/individuals to be identified. In this case, less than 10. As such, this information constitutes personal data. Further, disclosing it would breach the data protection principles relating to personal data.

In accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in relation to this aspect your request.

This information is being provided as a statutory obligation under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998. Please note that under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 Southwark Council ask not to receive unsolicited marketing communications.

You are free to use the information provided for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, requires the permission of the copyright holder. You may apply for permission to re-use this information by submitting a request to [accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk); you can find details on these arrangements at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCouncil/Copyright>. Detailed advice about the Reuse of Public Sector Information Regulations (PSI) 2005 is available from the Office of Public Sector Information at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/index.htm>.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact us using the above details.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make an appeal for a review of our decision, you should write to the Corporate Freedom of Information Officer at:

Corporate Freedom of Information Officer  
Southwark Council  
160 Tooley Street  
PO BOX 64529  
London SE1P 5LX

Email: [accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:accessinfo@southwark.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your appeal you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted our internal appeal procedure and you should contact him within 2 months of the outcome of your internal appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act is available through the Information Commissioner at the:

Further information is available through the Information Commissioner at the:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire. SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Internet: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)



Anna Sharkey

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**From:** Iain Yates <iain.yates@sutton.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 29 January 2015 14:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Freedom Of Information; LBS CYPLD Customer Care  
**Subject:** LB Sutton Freedom of Information Request - F7360  
**Attachments:** F7360 - Children missing from care.xlsx

Dear Anna Sharkey,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST - REF NO - F7360**

I refer to your request for information received on 2nd Jan concerning Children Missing From Care.

Please see the attached document in response to the questions set out below.

*(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:*

*(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

(f) placements outside of your borough?

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled you have the right to ask for an internal review. Please notify us in writing as soon as possible with the grounds upon which you feel the appeal is justified to : [foi@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:foi@sutton.gov.uk) or by post to Corporate Customer Care Team, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1EA.

We aim to respond to you within 20 working days of receiving your request. If it is going to take longer we will let you know.

Should you still be dissatisfied with the outcome you have the right to refer to the Information Commissioner: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Iain

**Iain Yates**

**Policy and Performance Manager**

Children, Young People & Learning Directorate

London Borough of Sutton

The Grove, High Street, Carshalton, SM5 3AL

Email: [iain.yates@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:iain.yates@sutton.gov.uk)

Tel: 0208 770 6266

Mob: 07792159591

**We recently launched a new Children's Social Care Talent Bank, why not take a look by clicking [here](#)**



**Sutton Children Missing From Care January 2014 - December 2014**

Question (a) Question (b) Question (c) Question (d) Question (e) Question (f)

	LAC Living inside borough	Incidents of LAC inside Borough	LAC Living outside borough	Incidents of LAC outside borough	Currently missing	
					Placement Inside borough	Placement Outside borough
January	1	3	3	3	0	0
February	1	1	0	0	0	0
March	2	4	0	0	0	0
April	1	1	0	0	0	0
May	1	1	2	2	0	0
June	2	2	3	3	0	0
July	1	1	0	0	0	0
August	3	5	1	1	0	0
September	1	1	1	2	0	0
October	0	0	1	1	0	0
November	1	1	1	1	0	0
December	0	0	1	1	0	0



Anna Sharkey

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**From:** Redouane Serroukh <Redouane.Serroukh@towerhamlets.gov.uk> on behalf of ESCW Information Governance <ESCW.InformationGovernance@towerhamlets.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 February 2015 16:11  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** ESCW Information Governance  
**Subject:** FOI 12105 Missing children and young people

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Anna Sharkey

**Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: FOI 12105 Missing children and young people**

Please accept our apology for the delay in providing this response.

Your request for information has been considered under the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the available information is provided below

- a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

1

- b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

3

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:

Your request for information for part of the question has been considered by the council and unfortunately your request cannot be met on this occasion.

The exemption applied is Section 12 – *Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit*. The information you have requested broken-down by months is not held in a format that will allow us to easily extract the information. In order to gather the information requested it will require manual examination of individual case files. This task, alongside the time already spent in gathering data for the other questions will exceed the maximum limit that is set under the Freedom of Information Regulations.

It is estimated that the cost of locating and retrieving the information requested calculated according to the government's Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 would be significantly in excess of the upper limit of £450 set in the Regulations.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email acts as a Refusal Notice for part of the question.



I am sorry that your request cannot be met fully on this occasion.

- c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?



20

- d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

63



Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

- e) placements within your borough?

3

- f) placements outside of your borough?

41

Yours Sincerely

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For information where the copyright is owned by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, details of the conditions of re-use can be found on our website at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk).

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organization, you must apply to the copyright holder to obtain their permission.

If you unhappy with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request please write to:

Corporate Complaints Unit  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
Mulberry Place

5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

If you are subsequently not satisfied with the Council's response to your complaint you have a right of appeal to the independent Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 01625 545 700  
[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Further information about the operation of the act is available from the council's website [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk) and the information leaflet in public reception areas in Council

\*\*\*\*\*  
Working Together for a Better Tower Hamlets  
Web site : <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk>

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If your request relates to a Freedom of Information enquiry, please resend this to [foi@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:foi@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Waltham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF

**Anna Sharkey**  
Liberal Democrat Group  
The London Assembly, Greater London  
Authority

**BY EMAIL:** [anna.sharkey@london.gov.uk](mailto:anna.sharkey@london.gov.uk)

Ask for: Debbie Callender-O'Neill  
Email: [Debbie.callender-oneill@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.callender-oneill@walthamforest.gov.uk)  
Direct line: 020 8496 3000  
Ref: **2014-1009**  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear **Miss Sharkey**

**RE: looked after children that go missing from borough placements**

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('FOIA'), which we received on **2 January 2014**.

The wording of your request was as follows:

**Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:**

**(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:**

**(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?**

**Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:**

**(e) placements within your borough?**

**(f) placements outside of your borough?**



## Response

It has been confirmed that the Council holds information of the type you have requested. The Council considers that disclosing this may lead to the identification of the individuals, so as to amount to 'personal data' under the Data Protection Act 1998.

As you may be aware, section 40(2) of the FOIA precludes disclosure of information where it would lead to the identification of a third party, whose information is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). The DPA governs the processing of personal data and defines personal data as data, which relates to a living identifiable individual (the 'data subject') who can be identified from the data, or from the data and other information, which is in the possession or of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller

I trust that the above satisfies your enquiry. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact as below. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications:

Debbie Callender-O'Neill  
Families Business Support Officer  
Business Support - Families Directorate  
Waltham Forest Town Hall,  
Forest Road, Walthamstow  
London, E17 4JF

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the Council's response to your request for information. If you wish to pursue such a complaint, please do so within 28 days from the date of this letter and ask for a review of the Council's decision. Please write to: The Information Officer, Learning from Complaints Team, Room 104, Waltham Forest Town Hall, Walthamstow E17 4JF, or email [information.officer@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:information.officer@walthamforest.gov.uk). Please mark your request clearly as "Request for Review".

If after receiving a response to the review, you remain dissatisfied with the Council's response, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Further information can be obtained via the Information Commissioner's helpline 0303 123 1113 or their website at: [http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom\\_of\\_information.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx)

Yours sincerely



**Debbie Callender-O'Neill**  
**Families Business Support Officer**  
**Families Directorate**



**Subject:** Freedom of Information Act request - 2015/10538 - Missing Children 2014

**From:** Freedom Of Information [<mailto:Foi@wandsworth.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 29 January 2015 09:36

**To:**

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Act request - 2015/10538 - Missing Children 2014

**Freedom of Information Act request - 2015/10538 - Missing Children 2014**

I refer to your request for information received on 02/01/2015. Please see the information below in response to your request: -

Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:

- (a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
- (b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

QA/QB	3 Young People = 10 episodes	
JAN 14		0
FEB 14		0
MAR 14		0
APRIL 14		1
MAY 14		1
JUNE 14		0
JULY 14		1
AUG 14		1
SEP 14		2
OCT 14		1
NOV 14		1
DEC 14		2

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014, of:

- (c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?
- (d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

QC/QD	7 Young People = 17 episodes	
JAN 14		1
FEB 14		0
MAR 14		2
APRIL 14		3
MAY 14		2
JUNE 14		1
JULY 14		1
AUG 14		2
SEP 14		3
OCT 14		0

NOV 14	0
DEC 14	2

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:

(e) placements within your borough?

0

(f) placements outside of your borough?

1

I hope this information meets your needs. If you do not understand the information provided or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact me and I, or another member of the team will be able to assist you.

Please note, all material provided by Wandsworth Council in response to your request for information is for your personal, non-commercial use. Wandsworth Council reserves all rights in the copyright of the information provided. Any unauthorised copying or adaptation of the information without express written confirmation from Wandsworth Council may constitute an infringement of copyright. Any intention to re-use this information commercially may require consent. Please forward any requests for re-use of information to the FOI officer.

If you are dissatisfied with the information provided in relation to your request you may make representations to the Chief Executive. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Room 149, Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Regards

Patrick Keys

Corporate Support and Information Team

[foi@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:foi@wandsworth.gov.uk)

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City of Westminster

[Redacted]  
London Assembly  
Liberal Democrat Group,  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
GREATER LONDON  
SE1 2AA

Childrens Services Commissioning  
Westminster City Council  
Westminster City Hall  
10th Floor East  
64 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1E 6QP  
Telephone 0207 641 3921  
Email [foi@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:foi@westminster.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** 495333

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 30 January 2015

Dear [Redacted]

#### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information. You asked to be provided with the following information:

*I would like to make the following freedom of information request:*

*Please state figures broken down by month from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 of:*

*(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(b) how many incidents have there been of looked after children and young people who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014, of:*

*(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*(d) how many incidents there have there been of looked after children and young people that are the responsibility of your borough, but are resident outside of your borough, that have gone missing for more than 24 hours?*

*Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from:*

*(e) placements within your borough?*

(f) placements outside of your borough?

**Response**

(a) how many looked after children and young people in total who are living within your borough and who are in the care of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

<b>Month</b>	<b>No of incidents of Children missing for more than 24h</b>	<b>No of individual Children missing for more than 24h</b>
Jan	1	1
Feb		
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct	3	2
Nov	1	1
Dec		

Please also state the figures, broken down by month from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, of:

(c) how many looked after children and young people in total that are the responsibility of your borough, but are placed outside of your borough have gone missing for more than 24 hours?

<b>Month</b>	<b>No of incidents of Children missing for more than 24h</b>	<b>No of individual Children missing for more than 24h</b>
Jan	1	1
Feb		
Mar		
Apr		
May		
Jun		
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct	32	11
Nov	26	5
Dec	21	3

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from: (e) placements within your borough?

7 Episodes from 3 Children as at End of Dec 2014

Please also state how many looked after children and young people who are the responsibility of your borough that are currently missing for more than 24 hours from: (f) placements outside of your borough?

7 Episodes from 3 Children as at End of Dec 2014

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Knowledge and Information Management Team  
Westminster City Hall  
10th Floor East  
64 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1E 6QP  
foia@westminster.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

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

Tel: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45

Fax: 01625 524510

Web: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Children's Services Commissioning

