

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20200162**
Date FOI Received: **19/02/2020**
Department: **Hertfordshire County Council** (Not Hertsmere Borough Council)
Title: **Children in care**
Description: **Details of numbers Identified or suspected as having been trafficked or a victim of modern slavery or unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC).**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

To whom it may concern

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please release the following information relating to looked after children in the care of your authority for the period **1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019:**

1. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that have been:

- a. Identified as having been trafficked or a victim of modern slavery – including, but not limited to, those identified through the National Referral Mechanism.
- b. Suspected of having been a victim of trafficking or modern slavery , if not included in a.
- c. Identified as an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) or a separated child.

2. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority:

- a. Identified or suspected as having been trafficked/victim of modern slavery and that have gone missing or absent.
- b. Identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.

3. The total number of individual incidents (which could involve the same child on more than one occasion) of looked after children in the care of your authority:

- a. Identified or suspected as having been trafficked/victim of modern slavery and that have gone missing or absent.
- b. Identified as an UASC or separated child and that have gone missing or absent.

4. The total number of looked after children in the care of your authority that are still missing or absent (including those that subsequently turned 18 without being found) that were identified or suspected as having been trafficked or identified as an UASC or separated child.

5. For all of the above please provide a breakdown of these numbers by gender and nationality of the child (e.g. British, Vietnamese, etc.) If identification is a concern due to small numbers involved, please give the total figures and specify whether the child is British / an EU national / non EU national. For Q3 & Q4, please add the length of time the child was missing during each incident.

Please note that statutory duties include collecting and recording the following:

- Whether a child is a victim of trafficking/ modern slavery, or whether there is reason to believe they may be a victim
- Whether a child is an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC)
- Data on children reported missing from care

I would be grateful if you could contact me if there are any issues regarding this request as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters.

If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within **20 working days** after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this request.

Regards

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

Thank you for your query.

Hertfordshire is a two tier area and this service is not provided at a district level but by the County Council.

Therefore, please refer your FOI request to Hertfordshire County Council who will be able to help you.

Kind regards
FOI