FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 839/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request/Response:

Please, can you help with the following six questions about accommodation for 'looked after children' and 'children in need' (see below)?

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is legally defined as ‘looked after’ by a local authority if he or she is provided with accommodation for a continuous period for more than 24 hours, is subject to a care order or is subject to a placement order. A child is defined as ‘in need’ if he or she requires assistance from a local authority. Government guidance states that ‘Independent accommodation’ such as private rental properties may be used to accommodate children.

1. How many 'looked after children' were placed in independent accommodation in 2010 and 2017 (please give separate figures for each calendar year)?

   Answer: In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this email message acts as a Refusal Notice.

   We can confirm that we hold the information however we are unable to supply it as we consider this information to be exempt due to the low number of individuals identified.

   The Council is relying on Section 40(2) – personal information in that it believes the exemption applies because the information is personal information and we believe that disclosure would not be fair or lawful because it would breach the first data protection principle as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998. We consider that these individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

2. How many 'looked after children' were placed in bed and breakfast and hotel style accommodation in 2010 and 2017 (please give separate figures for each calendar year)?

   Answer: None for all years.

3. How many 'looked after children' were placed in mobile homes/caravans in caravan parks, in 2010 and 2017 (please give separate figures for each calendar year)?
Answer: None for all years.

4. How many ‘children in need’ were placed in independent accommodation without a family member or carer in 2010 and 2017 (please give separate figures for each calendar year)?

   Answer: None for all years.

5. How many ‘children in need’ were placed in bed and breakfast and hotel style accommodation without a family member or carer in 2010 and 2017 (please give separate figures for each calendar year)?

   Answer: None for all years.

6. How many ‘children in need’ were placed in mobile homes/caravans in caravan parks without a family member or carer in 2010 and 2017 (please give separate figures for each calendar year)?

   Answer: None for all years.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Data Protection Officer, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council