10 October 2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1246/18

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Request / Response:

With reference to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs' amendment) please provide the following information:

1. Did your council sign up to the scheme?
   
   Answer: No, Rutland County Council are part of NTS, as a region we did not sign up to the scheme (s67 of IA 2016) but are currently considering an application for relocation of a Dubs UASC from Europe (France, Greece, Italy).

2. The number of places originally offered by your council for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs' amendment) (I appreciate capacity may have fluctuated, but please tell me what figure your authority informed the Home Office it could take immediately after the introduction of the Dubs Amendment in 2016)
   
   Answer: None - as a region Rutland County Council didn’t pledge any places for Dubs UASC.

3. The total number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have been taken in by your local authority under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 up to 21st September 2018.
   
   Answer: No unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been taken in by Rutland County Council under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 up to 21st September 2018.

4. The total number of places currently available (as of 21st September 2018) to take children under this particular amendment.
   
   Answer: The nationally agreed threshold is 0.07 of the LA population. Given the size of Rutland’s population, our quota for UASCs is 5, currently we have 3 vacancies- This is primarily made up from voluntary transfers within the UK under the National Transfer Scheme (NTS)/DUBS (of which we are currently considering 1 Dubs UASC) and VCRS Vulnerable Children Settlement Scheme.
5. Any indication you can give me as to whether your council would be willing to take more children under this specific amendment, if there were sufficient funding available to not impact upon already pressured budgets.

    Answer: Rutland County Council are not in agreement for considering taking additional cases above and beyond local quota.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, 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