FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1503/18

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 five questions about ‘independent accommodation’ used for children, including Looked After Children (LAC), age 16 and 17 years-old or younger. ‘Independent accommodation’ can include B&Bs, Hotels and private rental properties.

Children, including LAC, aged 16 and 17 years old or younger housed in ‘independent accommodation’

1. How many children were housed in independent accommodation in 2017?

   Answer: 6

2. How long did children housed in ‘independent accommodation’ spend in the accommodation (one night, a week or less, a month or less, more than a month, up to three months, six months or less, six months or more)?

   Answer: 5 were accommodated for six months or more and 1 for six months or less.

3. What were the ages of children housed in ‘independent accommodation’ (please provide a separate figure for each year of age)?

   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.

4. How regularly were safeguarding checks carried out on 'independent accommodation' used to house children in 2017?

Answer: Monthly meetings with the young person and the Personal Advisor. Fostering Worker allocated to the accommodation to oversee the placements.

5. Before placing LAC children in 'independent accommodation' were safeguarding risk assessments carried out on properties? If so who carried these out?

Answer: Rutland County Council only uses accommodation that we have used before for our UASC young people. Child care social workers carry out visits to any new supported accommodation prior to placing a child.

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