

29th January 2019

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190117**

**REQUEST**

***Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with the following concerning looked after children missing from children's homes***

***1/ For each of the last four calendar years (including 2018), how many occasions police were requested to search for looked after children missing from children's homes***

***2/ For the whole of the last four calendar years (including 2018), how many looked after children who the police were asked to search for after they went missing from children's homes, were never found by the force?***

***3/ In 2018, what was the most number of occasions that a single child went missing from a children's home?***

***4/ Please provide the most recently calculated estimated cost of searching for looked after children if known?***

***If unable to provide this information in calendar years, please provide this information in financial years including the most recent year, 2017-18, and state where this is done.***

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Performance Review Unit for assistance with your request. A Review Officer within the department has been able to provide me with the below.

***1/ For each of the last four calendar years (including 2018), how many occasions police were requested to search for looked after children missing from children's homes?***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Number of reports for a Child - LA</b>
2015	2,133
2016	2,115
2017	3,014
2018	2,694

*The figures are for where the person is categorised as a "Child – LA"*

***2/ For the whole of the last four calendar years (including 2018), how many looked after children who the police were asked to search for after they went missing from children's homes, were never found by the force?***

*Unable to answer from MISPER system statistics as it doesn't allow further interrogation*

***3/ In 2018, what was the most number of occasions that a single child went missing from a children's home?***

*In 2018, one "Child – LA" had 69 repeat reports*

Q4 – Work such as this is done in normal duty time and part of everyday work it doesn't attract a cost we can be defined specifically.

Therefore our response is "No Information Held"