

## 56102 Children in Care Missing from Placement

I am requesting the following information regarding children in the care of your local authority.

For each of the last five calendar years (2020–2024), please provide:

- a. The number of children in care (Looked After Children) reported missing.

We are unable to provide the information requested because it is not centrally held by the Council, and the cost to manually collate this data would far exceed the statutory maximum of £600.

We hold a central record of the number of 'missing events', rather than the number of children reported missing.

- b. Of those, the please provide the number who received a statutory return home interview.

All young people who return home are offered a Return Home interview.

- c. The total number of individual missing incidents involving children in care.

The number of 'missing events' are recorded as follows:

2020 - 565

2021 - 765

2022 - 689

2023 – 1,083

2024 – 518

- d. The number of children who went missing more than 10 times in a single year.
- e. The average length of time these children were missing before being located.

Police Scotland collates this information, rather than the City of Edinburgh Council.

Of the missing children:

- a. How many were placed in unregulated or semi-independent accommodation?

None were placed in unregulated places.

- b. How many were placed out of area (i.e. outside the boundary of your local authority)?

None.

- c. How many remain unaccounted for / are still classified as missing as of today?

None.

For the five-year period:

- a. Please provide any serious incident notifications or referrals made to the Department for Education or Ofsted regarding missing children in care.

There are none recorded on the system we report to. In Scotland, we do not refer to the Department for Education or Ofsted.

- b. If held, please provide any anonymised risk assessments or internal reviews following cases where children in care went missing for more than 7 days.

No such risk assessments or internal reviews have been identified.