

56138 Looked After Children and Risk of Exploitation (2020–2024)

I am writing to request the following information relating to looked after children in your care:

For each calendar year from 2020 to 2024 (inclusive), please provide:

The total number of looked after children (children in the care of the local authority).

Please refer to the table below.

Financial Year	Total Children
Apr 20 – Mar 21	1,370
Apr 21 – Mar 22	1,305
Apr 22 – Mar 23	1,225
Apr 23 – Mar 24	1,167
Apr 24 – Mar 25	1,104

The number of looked after children who were identified as being at risk of exploitation.

This includes, but is not limited to, risks associated with child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), and trafficking.

Please refer to the table below which relates to children who were subject to an Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD).

Financial Year	Total Children
Apr 20 – Mar 21	23
Apr 21 – Mar 22	13
Apr 22 – Mar 23	15
Apr 23 – Mar 24	22
Apr 24 – Mar 25	20

Of those identified as being at risk of exploitation, the number of children who were reported missing from care during that year.

If available, I would appreciate the data being broken down by year, and in electronic format.

There is not a general category of 'risk of exploitation'. Work is underway to review the digital system used in Edinburgh and the Lothians to manage and record discussions about potential child protection concerns, to support better recording of risks at the point of referral.

Due to the different levels of risk, and how 'missing events' and different levels of risk are recorded, it is not possible to extract and cross-reference the relevant data which would provide the information requested.