

60798 Age-Disputed Young People

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the following periods (clearly indicating the relevant figure for each period in your responses) – 01/01/2024-31/12/2024 and 01/01/2025- 31/12/2025.

During these two periods:

How many unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people with disputed dates of birth have you had referred to your local authority?

2024 – 39

2025 - 14

- a. Of them, how many were through the National Transfer Scheme (“NTS”)?

This should include National Transfer Scheme referrals (where the Home Office noted the young person’s age as being disputed) and referrals outside the National Transfer Scheme.

Zero.

How many full Merton compliant age assessments have you conducted?

2024 – 11

2025 - 9

- a. Out of these, how many assessments resulted in the young person’s age being accepted?

2024 – 11

2025 - 8

How many referrals have you made to the National Age Assessment Board at the Home Office?

2024 – Zero

2025 - Zero

- a. Out of those, how many referrals were accepted?

b. Out of the referrals accepted, how many assessments resulted in the young person’s age being accepted?

Not applicable.

How many unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people have you had referred to your local authority from Home Office operated accommodation?

11 in total in this period.

2024 – 9

2025 – 2

How many unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people have you had referred to your local authority outside the NTS?

2024 – 48

2025 - 41

- a. Of those young people, how many had their date of birth accepted without further enquiries?

2024 – 31 age-accepted at Brief Enquiry.

2025 – 18 age-accepted at Brief Enquiry. 5 no Brief Enquiry required.

- b. How many were allocated for a full Merton age assessment?

2024 – 15

2025 - 8

- c. How many were found to be clearly and obviously over 18 years old without further enquiries?

2024 – 1

2025 - 8