



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle
**Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin**

Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrict Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 1113

06 March 2017

Ms

Email: @yahoo.com

Dear Ms

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request Immigration Act

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

A) copies of all **responses** provided by (or collectively on behalf of) your local authority to:

i) the letter sent to 'All Local Council Leaders' by Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State for Immigration, dated 8/9/2016 (this letter had the heading 'UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING AND REFUGEE CHILDREN');

Response: [No correspondence received by Council.](#)

ii) the letter sent to Local Authority Leaders by the Rt Hon Amber Rudd, Home Secretary, and Edward Timpson MP, Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, dated 14/10/2016 (this letter had no heading, but concerned local authority capacity to care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors and began 'At the start of September the Immigration Minister wrote to you...');

Response: [No correspondence received by Council.](#)

iii) any other request by the Home Office for indications of how many places your local authority would be willing to offer to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs' amendment);

Response: [No correspondence received by Council.](#)

B) the total number of:

i) places pledged by your council for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs' amendment) (if this has been altered at any

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98 Strand Road
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point since the Home Office consultation began, please provide all numbers and indicate which is the most recent);

Response: [The Council has not made any pledges in respect of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.](#)

ii) places that have been filled (by the date of your response) by unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrived under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs' amendment).

Response: [The Council does not hold any information in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrived under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.](#)

I would inform you however that Council is not legislatively responsible for refugees, asylum seeking children or for housing.

A copy of the Northern Ireland Assembly – Research and Information Service Research Paper on the subject of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland published in June 2014 and available at:

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2014/ofmdfm/6314.pdf> which states on page 1 the following:

“Asylum and immigration are excepted matters in Northern Ireland, but the Home Office operates an Immigration Office in Belfast (Drumkeen House) and there is an Immigration Removal Centre in Larne (Larne House). 240 applications for asylum were received in Northern Ireland in 2012, less than one percent of the total for the UK in that year (28,000).

While asylum is not devolved, Northern Ireland Departments have responsibilities relating to the system, such as health care, legal aid, English language courses and education. Following a successful application, asylum seekers become refugees, who need to be integrated into society in Northern Ireland.”

You may also want to see input from the Department for Communities (DfC) who can be contacted at:

- **Department for Communities**

Lighthouse Building

1 Cromac Place

Gasworks Business Park

Ormeau Road

BELFAST BT7 2JB

Telephone: 028 9082 9000 <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/>

For further guidance on the [role of local authorities](#) within Northern Ireland and other statutory partners please refer to Northern Ireland's one stop government portal: [NIDirect](#).

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

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John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel 028 71253253 or email john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer



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