



Our ref: 70008481
20 January 2025

Thank you for the request for information you have made. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding.

The following response from Birmingham Children's Trust is in relation to questions 1 – 4 of your request and the other questions will be responded to under separate cover by Birmingham City Council.

Response

1. The total number of agency social workers currently engaged within Children's Services

127

2. The total number of vacant permanent social worker positions within Children's Services

278

3. The total number of agency workers engaged within Children's Services in social-work qualified roles, not including social worker positions.

4. The total number of vacant permanent social-work qualified roles within Children's services, not including social worker positions

The above questions will be responded to together.

The information you have requested is not held in a readily accessible format. I can confirm that the Trust has kept a manual record (i.e. outside of case management systems).

From undertaking a sampling exercise in respect to similar Fol requests in the past, we estimate that it will take over 18 hours of staff time in order to collate the information you are requesting. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) requires us to comply with a request, unless it would be too expensive to do so. Under s.12 (Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the Act, the cost limit for the Trust is £450 i.e. 18 hours at the rate of £25 per person per hour.

The cost limit allows us to consider when estimating the cost of complying with a request, time spent determining whether we hold the information requested; identifying, locating and retrieving it and extracting the information from the relevant documents.

We are therefore unable to process your request as to do so would exceed the cost limit as set out in s.12 of the Act.

In cases where the time involved in dealing with requests for information would exceed 18 hours, the Trust normally offers individuals the option to pay for the additional work over and above 18 hours, at a subsidised rate of £25 per hour. However, where the resources involved in dealing with a request would have detrimental impact on the Trust's ability to provide its core services, the Trust is entitled not provide this option, and accordingly, refuse the request outright. In this case due to the amount of work and resources required to comply with this element of your request, the Trust is of the view that the resources involved in responding to your request, even if you were to pay the subsidised statutory rate of £25.00 per hour, would interfere significantly with the Trust's ability to provide its core services, as such, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse the request outright on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

Please quote the reference number **70008481** in any future communications.

I will pass your request for an internal review on to the relevant member of our team.

If you are still dissatisfied with the Birmingham Children's Trust's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.



Disclosure Officer

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