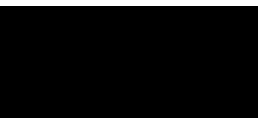




Our ref: 71017521
07 March 2025



Thank you for the Freedom of Information Request you have made. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by the Trust and our response is detailed below.

1. For each placement made to a private or voluntary provider's children's home in the previous financial year to date, please provide the actual price per week (excluding VAT) paid for the placement to the provider by your local authority.

We confirm that the Trust holds this information however we are withholding it under s.43 (Commercial interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

This section states that "Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)". Section 43 (2) of the Act provides an exemption from disclosure of information which would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including those of the Trust and other businesses).

A commercial interest can arise in a number of different circumstances. However, in broad terms, a commercial interest relates to any person's ability to buy or sell goods or services or to operate effectively without undermining its trading position. As this is a qualified exemption, we have considered the balance of public interest arguments for and against disclosure as required by the Act. The factors we considered are below:

Factors for disclosure:

- There is a public interest in transparency and accountability in public decision making and the financial affairs of the Trust.

Factors against disclosure:

- Disclosure would, or would be likely to, undermine a third party's ability to compete for contracts on the open market (by revealing or allowing

competitors to work out commercially sensitive costs information that gives a company an edge).

- The Trust's commercial interests would also be harmed by disclosure of this information as disclosure of the price the Trust pays for these services may harm our ability to negotiate future terms for this type of contract and that would not be in the public interest.

Taking the likely prejudice outlined above into account, we are satisfied that the public interest in withholding this information in this respect outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

2. If your authority operates its own children's homes, please provide the actual weekly cost of a place in your own homes for the same year (2023/24).

The weekly cost 23/24 for internal children's homes is £6,483.

3a. What is the number of registered children's homes (private or voluntary providers) in your local authority

88

3b. What is the number of registered places (private or voluntary providers) in your local authority

221

3c. How many young people are currently awaiting placement in your local authority

There are 32 children (as of 15th January 2025) waiting for residential bed / with a current active search. Please note that this figure fluctuates given varying demand periods throughout the year so cannot to be taken to be a constant average.

Please quote the reference number **71017521** in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response. Please outline which part of the response you are not happy with setting out your reasons. This request should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366

Birmingham Children's Trust
PO Box 17342
Birmingham
B2 2DW

Web: www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Birmingham
B2 2YY

Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the 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

Re Use of Public Sector Information

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