



Our ref: 71688393
2 April 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. How many Lucy Faithfull Foundation assessments the Birmingham Children's Trust has either commissioned or used in its decision making in each year over the past five years where the person being assessed had a history of child sexual abuse?

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.
- Disclosure would be likely to bring greater public understanding and awareness to the Trust's involvement with Lucy Faithfull Foundation Assessments

Factors against disclosure:

- Disclosure would, or would be likely to, undermine a third party's ability to compete for contracts on the open market (e.g. by revealing or allowing competitors to work out commercially sensitive costs information that gives a company an edge).
- In addition, disclosing this information may harm our ability to negotiate future terms for this type of contract in the future 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. The outcome of each of these assessments i.e. the foundation concluded the person being assessed did or did not pose a risk

3. The decision the Birmingham Children's Trust made in each of these situations i.e. to place a child with the assessed person

The questions above 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).

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 unable to process this part of 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.

4. How much money in each year over the past five years the Birmingham Children's Trust has spent with The Lucy Faithfull Foundation?

	Sum of Invoice Amount
2022	27,858.50
2023	46,591.48
2024	4,448.00
Grand Total	78,897.98

Please note that information going further back is not held by the Trust.

Please quote the reference number **71688393** 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
B2 2YY
Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

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

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

Web: www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

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