



Our ref: 76184126
21 August 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) The number of children in children's homes and, if possible, the total number of weeks combined for all of these children over the year.

329 children with a combined total number of weeks of 11,888.

2) The total cost spent on children's homes over the year.

£74,596,672.

This includes spend in 2024 / 25 for Internal Residential Children's Homes, External Residential Children's Homes and Secure Welfare.

3) The average cost of children's homes per child per week.

Circa £6900 across averaged across all categories and including all children in residential.

4) The number of children and average cost per child per week in homes provided by:

i) the private sector.

306 children

ii) the local authority.

31 children

5) The number of children in care over the year.

The number of children in care in the financial year 2024 / 25 was 3036.

6) The number of 16-17 year olds in supported living/accommodation in each of the four categories:

category 1: supported accommodation in a self-contained unit, where the accommodation is for the sole use of the child or for the child and other individuals living with the child

category 2: supported accommodation in a shared- or group-living situation in premises used to accommodate only looked-after children and care leavers

category 3: supported accommodation in a shared- or group-living situation in premises that are not limited to accommodating looked-after children and care leavers

category 4: supported accommodation provided by an individual or individuals in a private residence

The total number of children aged 16 -17 in supported living / accommodation was 463.

We cannot provide a breakdown by category type as this information is not held by the Trust in a readily accessible format.

From undertaking a sampling exercise in respect to similar Fol requests in the past, we estimate that it takes approximately 10 minutes to locate the file and locate specific information contained in the file, dependent on the size and complexity of the file.

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.

In order for us to answer this question, there are 463 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 77 hours. 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 this part of the request on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

7) The average cost per child per week of support living/accommodation

£1400 for rolling 12 week average (averaged across all types / categories of support)

**8) The number of children in unregulated placements:
i) aged under 16**

As of 30 July 2025, there were ≤5 children aged under 16 in unregulated placements.

Some information has been withheld. This information is exempt under Section 40(2) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). Where the number is 5 or less, the Trust has replaced the figure with 'equal to or less than 5' ("≤5"). The numbers have been withheld to prevent individuals being identified; this is in line with the Information Commissioners guidance of anonymization, which mitigates the risk of individuals being identified. The Trust considers that individuals could potentially be identified from the very low numbers and that such identification would constitute a breach of one of the principles set out under the Data Protection Act 2018. This is on the basis that it could be combined with other reasonably available information to identify individuals. As this is personal data, disclosure under Freedom of Information is conditional upon satisfying the First Data Protection Principle, that processing be fair, lawful and transparent. We recognise that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability in public decision making. We have balanced this against the privacy rights of the individual data subjects.

On balance, we consider the detriment to privacy through disclosure outweighs the interest that would be served. Accordingly, disclosure would be in contravention of the First Data Protection Principle. It is therefore appropriate for us to withhold this information under section 40(2) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) by virtue of section 40(3A)(a). We are therefore exempting this part of the request under section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the same Act.

ii) 16 and 17 years old

As of 30 July 2025, there were ≤5 children age 16 and 17 in unregulated placements.

As above, we are therefore exempting this part of the request under section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the same Act.

Please quote the reference number **76184126** 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.

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Disclosure Officer

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