



Our ref: 77297697

06 October 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 care (also known as "Looked After Children") that your local authority is responsible for, that are currently placed in children's homes and are attending mainstream state education. In this definition, please include mainstream academies, free schools and maintained schools but exclude independent boarding schools, special schools and Pupil Referral Units/alternative provision.**

There are currently 92 looked after children placed in children's homes that are attending mainstream schools.

- 2) The total placement costs for children in care that your local authority was responsible for, that were placed in children's homes and attended mainstream state education, for the financial year 2024/25. (The placement costs refer to the costs of residential placement in the children's home, not the costs of the mainstream schooling.)**

This information is not held by the Trust 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 FoI requests in the past, we estimate that it takes approximately 20 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 92 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 20 minutes to review which would take 30 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.

- 3) The highest annual placement cost of any individual child in the financial year 2024/25 of children in care that your local authority was responsible for, who was placed in children's homes and was attending mainstream state education during that period. (The placement costs refer to the costs of residential placement in the children's home, not the costs of the mainstream schooling.)**
- 4) The estimated total placement costs for children in care that your local authority is responsible for, who are placed in children's homes and attend mainstream state education, for the current financial year. (The placement costs refer to the costs of residential placement in the children's home, not the costs of the mainstream schooling.)**
- 5) The estimated highest annual placement cost of any individual child in the current financial year of children in care that your local authority is responsible for, who is placed in a children's homes and is attending mainstream state education. (The placement costs refer to the costs of residential placement in the children's home, not the costs of the mainstream schooling.)**

The questions above will be answered together. The Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse this part of the request on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

Please quote the reference number **77297697** 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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely,



**Disclosure Officer**

**Re Use of Public Sector Information**

Where Birmingham Children's Trust is the copyright holder of any information that may be released, re-use for personal, educational or non-commercial purposes is permitted without further reference to the Birmingham Children's Trust. Where the re-use is for other purposes, such as commercial re-use, the applicant should notify the Birmingham Children's Trust in writing to seek approval or agree terms for re-use.