



Our ref: 77255257

7 October 2025



Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear 

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 average weekly fee paid by your authority for a placement in a therapeutic residential children's home in the financial year 2023/24 (or the most recent full year for which data is available).

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 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.

On 31 March 2024 there were 224 children placed in residential children's homes. In order for us to answer this question, there are 224 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review

which would take 37 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.

2) The range of weekly fees paid (lowest and highest) during that period.

As above, 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 total number of children placed in therapeutic residential children's homes during that period.

As above, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse this part of the request on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.

4) The authority's definition or criteria of what constitutes a 'therapeutic residential children's home' for the purposes of placement and commissioning.

Therapeutic residential care refers to an element of clinical input into the care of the child which could mean an evidence based therapeutic environment in the children's home or direct therapeutic input into the child's care whilst placed in the home.

5) A summary of the services and provisions included within the weekly fee (e.g., therapeutic input, therapy types, staffing levels, education, clinical oversight, etc.).

All therapies and support provided in the care of the child should be included within the Standard Weekly Fee with no additional costs to the Local Authority. This will include initial assessments, ongoing reviews, medical/specialist appointments to meet a child's needs, and all types of court appearance. Weekly fees will also cover the cost of clinical oversight and supervision of the approach, model and strategies used to manage young people, the cost of training related to the therapeutic model and supporting staff.

Please quote the reference number **77255257** 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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