



Our ref: 77798841
23 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) A list of all registered children's homes in Birmingham, including operator name, address, registration number, and Ofsted rating.

This information is not held by the Trust.

We are committed to our duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to provide advice and assistance where it is reasonable to do so. The best organisation to contact in terms of obtaining this information would be OFSTED. As this information including the address details is restricted and sensitive due to the vulnerable looked after children living at these addresses, you may wish to refine your request so it does not include address details.

**2) A list of all known or suspected unregistered children's homes in Birmingham, including operator name, address (if known), and any inspections or investigations conducted.
Funding and placements:**

This information is not held by the Trust.

We are committed to our duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to provide advice and assistance where it is reasonable to do so. The best organisation to contact in terms of obtaining

this information would be OFSTED as they will have a list of suspected provisions operating illegally.

3) Details of any council-funded placements made in unregistered or temporarily registered children's homes.

As of 07 October 2025, BCT has a total of 9 children living in unregistered children's homes or unregistered arrangements – the majority of which are not within BCT council area. This does include a small number of children who were placed in CQC residential provision and have not fully met the CQC criteria, so we treat them as unregulated, even though there is a regulator linked to the home.

4) The amount of council funds spent on these placements annually.

For the period 01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025 the total spend on these placements is £2,929,946.64 (including the CQC provision).

Complaints, investigations, and enforcement:

5) Records of complaints, investigations, or enforcement actions taken against children's homes in Birmingham, including unregistered homes.

For homes located in Birmingham, we have record of the regulator issuing:

19 cease/desist letters where it is believed a home is operating as an unregistered children's home

4 suspensions of children's homes

5 restriction of accommodation for further admissions to children's homes

2 overall judgements of inadequate

6) The outcome of each investigation, including any closure or regulatory action.

As above.

Third-party/private operators:

7) Details of private companies or organisations running children's homes (registered or unregistered) in Birmingham, including any private equity-backed ownership.

This information is not held by the Trust. Please refer to OFSTED for these enquiries, as the regulator and inspectorate.

Audit or monitoring reports:

8) Copies of any internal audits, monitoring reports, or risk assessments relating to the operation of children's homes in Birmingham.

This information is not held by the Trust. Please refer to OFSTED for these enquiries, as the regulator and inspectorate.

Optional Clarification/Context:

9) I am particularly concerned about the safety and welfare of children placed in unregulated or inadequately monitored homes. I request information that allows me to understand how the council is identifying, funding, and regulating such placements.

BCT has an embedded Quality Assurance function to its placement service.

We undertake proactive and reactive quality assurance activity. We respond to intelligence or concerns from any source. Our response will involve triangulation with the provider and social work team as standard and may include desktop or site visit response depending on the nature of the issue.

Pre-placement, we undertake visits and checks on provision which we refer to as 'due diligence', where we collect information both on the organisations and on the proposed provision address. This includes information such as staffing and recruitment information and evidence, insurances, health and safety certificates and evidence of the home environment, plus any references or comments from any other LA who has used them. This enables us to formulate an assessment of whether we are assured to place a child into this environment. This information is collated into a coherent response which forms evidence and recommendation. For unregulated provision in addition we have either personally completed site visit to all addresses we place children in advance, or scrutinise photos and videos pre placement, and as standard conduct or commission NYAS to conduct a site visit and inspection usually within a week of the child arriving at the placement.

Post-placement, aside of the visit undertaken by our service, the placements are closely monitored by social workers and managers, there is an onward placement search as the intention is for any such arrangement to be as short as possible, we respond to any intelligence or report from any source and will undertake enquiries with social work teams to conduct an assessment of their determination of the placement / provision, liaise with the LADO service, conduct site visit or desktop enquiries and triangulate this information.

As the largest local authority in Europe, providers reach out daily to us in an attempt to encourage us to use their services. In order to clear them to use in any way, they would go through the 'due diligence' process as described above.

Please quote the reference number **77798841** 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 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.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Britteon
Disclosure Officer

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