



Our ref: 78742130
18 November 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.

Request

For the 6-month period ending 30th September 2025, can you please provide:

1) Total unregulated agency spend for children's crisis support staff.

In this period the total spend was £221,798.23

2) Total amount of children's crisis support staffing requests submitted to unregulated agency providers.

In this period we had 2 such arrangements with unregulated agency providers.

3) Total hours filled by unregulated agency providers with children's crisis support staff.

In this period the providers delivered 6336 hours of staffing support over 2 packages of care.

4) Total requests for children's support staff submitted to unregulated agency providers that went unfilled.

None went unfulfilled. We don't promote this type of activity within our social work teams, and we only use this type of arrangement as a last resort or where it is a best interest decision for the child/young person.

5) A list of all unregulated agency providers for child crisis support staff utilised by your local authority and total number of shifts for each provider.

We don't hold the number of shifts; the services were delivered over 123 days – we don't specify how the shifts are delivered.

6) The highest unregulated agency provider charge rate within your local authority for children's crisis support staff.

The range of hourly rates are £32.70 to £35.60 per hour – the total packages are arranged and negotiated depending on the need of the young person and this rate includes all allowances for the young person, management, travel etc. These are bespoke to the child and their needs.

7) A list of any unregulated agency providers that have ongoing children's crisis support staffing arrangements with your local authority within the identified time frame (30.03.2025 - 30.09.2025).

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 detailed below:

Factors for disclosure:

- Disclosure would be likely to bring greater public understanding and awareness to the Trust's involvement in these types of contracts.

Factors against disclosure:

- Favors competitors to the Trust: competitors could use the information to market themselves.

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.

8) The point of contact for children's services in your local authority who approves usage of unregulated agency providers for children's crisis support staff.

The package is approved by the approving Director for any particular social work team/service as each child and their situation is considered individually.

The Placements Commissioning Team are the team that undertake due diligence on any providers, the email address is detailed below:

placementscommissioning@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Please quote the reference number **78742130** 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.

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Disclosure Officer

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