



11 December 2024

Our Ref: FOI 332

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Foster Care Fees**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 5 November 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services & Social Work Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Please provide the following information for years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

- Q1. What was the Trust's annual non-pay inflationary uplift provided by the Department of Health for each of the years?**
- Q2. What was the percentage uplift applied to Trust foster care fees in each of the years?**
- Q3. What was the cost to the Trust in pound sterling required to provide the uplift to Trust foster care fees in each of the years? (Note only the cost of the increase not the total spent on foster care fees.)**

A1-3. In response to questions 1 to 3, there was no annual non-pay inflationary uplift allocated to the Trust within the years 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

The Trust is currently reviewing an uplift to foster carer fees for 2024/2025.

- Q4. Was the uplift applied equality to all foster carer fee levels and to all foster carers within the Trust?**

A4. As there was no annual inflationary update, this question does not apply.