

30 September 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1389

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Monies Paid to Companies who Source Foster  
Parents**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 2 September 2025.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Children's Services 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](mailto: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

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**Olivia Robinson**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. In the calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024, how much was paid by the trust to companies who source foster parents and supply foster care for children within the trust?**

A1. Please see Table 1 below for the spend per calendar year regarding the amount paid by the Trust to companies who source foster parents and supply foster care for children within the Trust.

Table 1

Year	Spend in £
2022	3,942,275
2023	5,752,900
2024	6,588,037

**Q2. In each of the above years, how many children annually were resident in foster care?**

A2. Please see Table 2 below for the number of children per calendar year that were resident in foster care.

Table 2

Year	Number of Children
As at March 2022	493
As at March 2023	536
As at March 2024	550

**Q3. In the calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024, how much was paid by the trust to companies who provide residential care for children under 18 who are in the care system within the trust? This request does not refer to care for children who need specialist residential disability care.**

A3. Please see Table 3 for the spend per calendar year regarding the amount paid by the Trust to companies who provide residential care for children under 18 who are in the care system within the Trust.

Table 3

<b>Year</b>	<b>Spend in £</b>
2022	2,817,973
2023	2,019,237
2024	2,658,092

**Q4. In each of the above years, how many children were in residential care (not including specialist residential disability care)?**

Please see Table 4 below for the number of children per calendar year that were in residential care.

Table 4

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
As at March 2022	61
As at March 2023	52
As at March 2024	55