



31 March 2023

Our Ref: RFI 49687

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Trusts Foster Care Service**

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 6 March 2023.

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

Q1. In the financial year 2021/22 what was the outturn for provided foster care?

A1. For the financial year 2021/2022 the total outturn for provided foster care was £3,355,997.78

Q2a. In the financial year 2021/22 what was the outturn for purchased foster care?

A2a. For the financial year 2021/2022 the total outturn for private foster care placements was £4,627,746

Q2b. The average proportion of foster care placements in the financial year 2021/22, in percentage terms, that were purchased from independent agencies

A2b. The average proportion of foster care placements in the financial year 2021/2022 that were purchased from independent agencies was 25%.

Q3. What the total number is of looked after children?

A3. The total number of Looked After Children (LAC) is 662.

Q4a. The number of looked after children who are being accommodated via purchased fostering service?

A4a. The total number of LAC being accommodated via purchased fostering service is 109.

Q4b. The exact number of children in each of the contracts held by a purchased fostering service, specifying the agencies used.

A4b. Please see Table 1 for the number of children in contracts held by purchased fostering service.

Table 1

Fostering Service	No. of Children
Kindercare	37
FCA	46
Barnardos	14

Q5. The number of looked after children who are being accommodated via the local authority provider?

A5. The total number of LAC being accommodated via the local authority is 656.

Q6. The number of looked after children who are placed outside of the local authority

A6. The total number of LAC placed outside of the local authority is 6.

Q7. The average number of registered Foster carers who receive a fee from the local authority provider between 14th December 2019 to 14th December 2022, broken down by years.

A7. Please see Table 2 for the number of Foster Carers who receive a fee from the local authority provider.

Table 2

Year	No. of Foster Carers
2019	87
2020	83
2021	76
2022	79

Q8. The number of foster carers de-registered from the local authority provider between 14th December 2019 to 14th December 2022, broken down by years.

A8. Please see Table 3 for the number of Foster Carers de-registered from the local authority provider.

Table 3

Year	De-registered Non-Kinship	De-registered Kinship	Total
December 2019 – March 2020	10	6	16
April 2020 – March 2021	22	26	48
April 2021 – March 2022	39	25	64
April 2022 – December 2022	16	15	31