

30 August 2023

## **Capacity of NI Children's Respite and Residential Units**

I am writing to request information, as a follow-up to my previous FOI - FOI/29570.

- 1. Please provide the Service Level Agreement between Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Barnardo's Home Links for Children with Disabilities Services in respect of their delivery of care in a child's family home.**

The contract between Belfast Trust and Barnardo's Home Links is attached in two separate documents – Attachments 1 and 2.

Areas redacted in the attachments are those that contain personal information such as individual names and signatures, which are identifiable. This is Personal Information Relating to a Third Person and so is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to this, information in relation to pricing for activity, which makes up the financial value of the contract, is also exempt from release. This is deemed Commercially Sensitive information under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. Releasing it has the potential to impact upon future tender processes.

- 2. As a follow-up to question 9 of FOI/29570, I request a capacity breakdown by BHSCCT of the number of places occupied by children at Somerton Road Children's Home, Willow Lodge, Forest Lodge, and Barnardo's Home Links for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and, where full capacity was not met for the listed Respite Residential units above during these years, to state how many places were unoccupied in each care unit?**

- Somerton Road and Forest Lodge have not operated under capacity during the specified time periods.
- Willow Lodge was paused for respite in March 2020 and its registration was removed in 2022.
- Barnardo's Home Links is not a residential respite unit.

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- 3. Did requests to BHSCT for children's places at Somerton Road Children's Home, Willow Lodge, Forest Lodge, and Barnardo's Home Links for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 exceed available capacity at any or all of the listed Respite and Residential units? If so, please provide a breakdown of the number of requests received for the above-listed care units for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.**

The information is not held, as the Children with Disabilities Service does not centrally collate information linked to "requests" for children to be placed in any of the aforementioned facilities.