

30 September 2025

Foster Care

I would like to submit the following FOI request.

1. 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?

2022 – 2023 £6.9M
2023 – 2024 £7.89M
2024 – 2025 £8.15M

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

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Foster Care (Stranger & Kinship)	1077	1130	1214

For each of the above, this is a count of the children who were recorded under the relevant placement types during the year. This is not a snapshot at a certain date. This is a total of children in these placements across the full reporting year.

As a count of children has been requested, if a child has been in more than one foster / kinship placement or residential placement during the same reporting year, they are only counted once in that year.

However as we have been asked for children in these placement types per year, if a child is in placement across more than one of the requested years, they are counted once per year.

3. 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.

2022 £1,037,525
2023 £ 561,216
2024 £1,286,256

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

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Residential	78	88	78

For each of the above, this is a count of the children who were recorded under the relevant placement types during the year. This is not a snapshot at a certain date. This is a total of children in these placements across the full reporting year.

As a count of children has been requested, if a child has been in more than one foster / kinship placement or residential placement during the same reporting year, they are only counted once in that year.

However, as we have been asked for children in these placement types per year, if a child is in placement across more than one of the requested years, they are counted once per year.

Please note the numbers above reflect the children for whom Belfast Health and Social Care Trust holds case responsibility. This does not include other children placed in our homes for whom statutory responsibility is retained by the placing Trust.