

8 October 2025

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation used by Social Services under 18 receiving care over the last five years.

In relation to B&B (Bed and Breakfast), long-term rental and hotel accommodation used by Social Services to accommodate both those under-18 receiving care and staff over the last five years broken down by constituency, please outline the nightly rates agreed, the overall annual cost per provider and the number of nights used broken down by year for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 1st January 2025-31st May 2025 and the number of nights used in each provider

Please also provide separately how many nights were spent in each constituency in Northern Ireland, or the country depending on the accommodation.

Type of Accommodation	Number of days in 2020	Number of days in 2021	Number of days in 2022	Number of days in 2023	Number of days in 2024	Number of days in Jan - May 2025
B&B	47	0	0	0	0	0
Hotel	0	0	12	11	0	51
Private Rental	775	401	1455	1499	5437	3785

Our electronic recording system does not break data down into constituencies.

The nightly rates vary considerably and to obtain this information would involve a manual trawl of all invoices. We consider the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act under [Section 12](#). Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

8 October 2025

There is no overall cost centre. Invoices are stored in numerous cost centres and which would have to be manually trawled to extract the information requested. This again would take in excess of 18 hours and is also exempt from release under Section 12 of the FOI Act, as detailed above.

We are unable to identify providers given the sensitive nature of the information being requested. For that reason, we have applied [Section 43](#) of the FOI Act which relates to Commercial Interests. We feel releasing the information requested is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).