

9 February 2026

## Children's Social Services

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. If this full request goes over the cost limit, please answer questions in numerical order until cost limit is reached.

1. The total number of referrals to Children's Services per year, each year for the last five years

Number of referrals to Children's Services	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
	7005	7601	7501	7472	6919

Figures are from Section 10.1.4a of the DSF return - Number of Children referred for an Assessment of Need

2. The total budget allocated to Children's services (by calendar year or financial year, whichever is easier) each year for the last five years

Children's Budget	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
Salaries Budget	73,961,363	66,425,390	62,304,211	57,360,157	55,252,691
Goods Budget	48,299,204	42,369,386	37,884,791	35,859,728	35,240,842
	<b>122,260,567</b>	<b>108,794,776</b>	<b>100,189,002</b>	<b>93,219,885</b>	<b>90,493,533</b>

Includes Recurrent Budget and Non-recurrent Budget

9 February 2026

**3. The total cost of employing agency (temporary / non-staff) social workers per year each year for the last five years**

<b>Agency Costs</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Band 2	214,322	54,682	201,514	116,336	125,770
Band 3	11,879	38,553	94,702	128,194	142,776
Band 4	1,836,356	2,216,858	2,573,182	1,839,869	1,381,826
Band 5	1,973,855	2,269,607	2,838,495	1,433,976	954,713
Band 6	-44,189	323,590	1,229,778	852,064	550,393
Band 7	-6,750	9,270	146,643	232,159	116,132
	<b>3,985,473</b>	<b>4,912,560</b>	<b>7,084,312</b>	<b>4,602,598</b>	<b>3,271,611</b>

Includes all Social Work / Social Care Agency - Social Work Agency Band 6 and above.

9 February 2026

4. **Total expenditure on housing children and young adults in non-local authority (i.e. privately run) children’s homes per year each year for the last five years, and the average cost per child per annum for such placements in each year for the last five years**

<b>Independent Sector Children’s Homes</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Total expenditure	4,160,775	3,458,423	2,441,084	3,053,466	2,713,050
Average cost per child	462,308	345,842	348,726	436,209	452,175