

02 September 2026

Statistics on Adoptions that Broke Down

1. **The number of legal adoptions which broke down and resulted in a child returning to care in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 (broken down by year)**

For each of the years 2015 to 2026 the figure is <5 *

2. **The length of time that each legal adoption which broke down lasted for**

See below **

3. **The age of the child involved in each legal adoption which broke down**

See below **

4. **The number of planned adoptions which broke down and resulted in a child remaining in care in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 (broken down by year)**

For each of the years 2015 to 2026 the figure is <5 *

See below **

5. **The length of time each planned adoption lasted for before it broke down**

See below **

6. **The age of the child involved in each planned adoption which broke down**

See below **

* Where numbers are low we have indicated <5 rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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****** Because the number of cases involved in each adoption that broke down was particularly low, we are unable to answer these questions as to do so has the potential to make people personally identifiable and so this information is therefore exempt from release again under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act - Personal Information Relating to a Third Party.

We consider that disclosure of this information would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.