Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/38094

19 October 2026

Prospective adopter progression by applicant composition, 2021/22 to 2025/26

This request concerns mainstream domestic, non-relative adoption of children through your service. Please exclude step-parent, kinship or relative, and intercountry adoption.

For the five completed financial years from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026, please provide the five-year aggregate number of unique prospective-adopter households in each of these applicant-composition groups:

1. **One male applicant**
2. **One female applicant**
3. **Two male applicants**
4. **Two female applicants**
5. **One male and one female applicant**
6. **Another composition, or sex/gender not known or not recorded**

For each group, please provide the number that:

a. made an initial enquiry
b. submitted a formal registration of interest or application
c. were accepted into, or proceeded to, formal assessment
d. completed assessment and were presented to an adoption panel
e. were approved as suitable to adopt
f. had a child placed with them for adoption
g. had at least one Adoption Order granted

Please treat households that made an initial enquiry during the stated period as the cohort, and report how many had reached each subsequent stage by the date of your response. If linked cohort information is not held, please instead provide the number of households reaching each stage during the stated period and clearly explain that this is the basis used.

Please count a joint application as one household and do not count children. Please use the closest equivalent categories and stages in your records and explain any material differences in terminology. The applicant groups should be based on the sex or gender composition recorded in your system; please do not infer sexual orientation.

If an annual breakdown for 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 is readily available, please provide that as well. If not, the five-year aggregate alone will answer the request.

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I would prefer the information in an accessible spreadsheet or CSV file. Please show zero separately. Where exact small figures could identify an individual, a band such as "1–4" or "<5" is acceptable rather than suppressing the whole row.

To undertake this exercise would necessitate a manual interrogation of data which would involve a significant number of hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.