Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/38050

3 November 2026

Respite Care up to the age of 18

In relation to respite services (up to the age of 18) provided by the Belfast Trust, how many requests have been:

(i) Made

There are many forms of respite services for children/young people with disabilities. These range from;

- Residential short breaks
- Fostering short breaks
- Day short breaks
- Short breaks commissioned through Direct Payments.
- Contracted short breaks through C&V sector.
- Family Support Services.

The Belfast Trust Children's Disability Service does not centrally collate all requests made. This would require an extensive manual trawl which would require more than 18 hours to complete.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

(ii) **Fulfilled by the Belfast Trust**,

The Belfast Trust Children's Disability Service does not centrally collate the wide range of respite services requests made and fulfilled. Equally this would require an extensive manual trawl which would exceed the 18 hours (see above)

(iii) Not fulfilled by the Belfast Trust but where the Belfast Trust provided finance to a family to secure respite (and the total cost of this),

Dependent on families' particular circumstances, there are occasions when short breaks are provided by Direct Payments. This is on an individual basis based on assessed need. The Belfast Trust Children's Disability Service does not centrally collate this information. This would require a manual trawl which would exceed the 18 hours (see above)

(iv) Not fulfilled and placed on a waiting list and

Given the range of respite services available to families, Belfast Trust Children's Disability Service does not centrally collate this information.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that this information is not centrally held in recorded format.

(v) Not fulfilled at all in each quarter of the last five years.

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Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that this information is not centrally held in recorded format