

24 November 2022

Under 18 Year Olds in Unregulated Care

Q1: How many young people under 18 years in care of your trust have been held in unregulated accommodation in the past 5 years?

1.4.17 – 31.3.18	18 young people
1.4.18 – 31.3.19	<5 young people
1.4.19 – 31.3.20	21 young people
1.4.20 – 31.3.21	<5 young people
1.4.21- 31.3.22	0 young people

This data is based on the last 5 financial years, not calendar years, on the basis of our recording of this data.

Q2 Age of young people involved

1.4.17 – 31.3.18	18 young people	17 years
1.4.18 – 31.3.19	<5 young people	17 years
1.4.19 – 31.3.20	21 young people	16 – 17 years
1.4.20 – 31.3.21	<5 young people	17 years
1.4.21- 31.3.22	0 young people	

Q3 What type of unregulated accommodation was used?

Guesthouses/ B&Bs, Hostels and private rental placements.

Q4 Were there any instances where accommodation was deemed unsuitable or unsafe after a young person had been placed in that accommodation? If so, please provide further detail on same.

It has been necessary, on occasions, to access this type of unregulated accommodation on the basis of the assessment of the young person's needs, in line with placement options available. In these circumstances, Trust staff ensure any necessary support is provided.

This information is not centrally collated and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 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 person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

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Q5 Please provide a list of those companies, businesses and individuals who have received a payment from the trust in exchange for provision of unregulated accommodation in each of the last 5 years

This request falls under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act - Personal Information Relating to A Third Party and is exempt from release as disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the GDPR. Releasing this information has the potential to identify the locations where these young people stay, meaning anyone anywhere would have access to them at any time. It also has the potential for these companies, businesses and individuals to be approached directly by members of the public trying to seek information about our young people.

Q6 Please provide information on the amount spent by the trust on unregulated accommodation in each of the last 5 years, with individual breakdown for each supplier where available.

This information is not centrally collated and we consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the FOI Act under Section 12. Section 12 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 person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

Q7 Have any providers of unregulated accommodation been removed or excluded from the scheme, and if so for what reason?

The Trust does not have an established scheme in place for Guesthouse / B&B, hostel or private rental placements therefore we do not hold records of this nature.