

30 September 2024

## Research Project Foster Carers

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide me with the following information?

	Year ending 31/3/14	Y/E 31/3/15	Y/E 31/3/16	Y/E 31/3/17	Y/E 31/3/18	Y/E 31/3/19	Y/E 31/3/20	Y/E 31/3/21	Y/E 31/3/22	Y/E 31/3/23	Y/E 31/3/24
Number of foster carers registered with your LA	451	385	386	403	449	482	*Due to Covid this was submitted in September  529	572	534	564	601
Foster carers recruited	11 kinship  51 non kinship	5 kinship  11 non kinship	32 kinship  2 non kinship	7 kinship  8 non kinship	24 kinship  15 non kinship	32 kinship  7 non kinship	29 kinship  17 non kinship	51 kinship  13 non kinship	42 kinship  9 non kinship	68 kinship  3 non kinship	45 kinship  9 non kinship
Foster carers deregistered	21	18	15	11	16	19	6	25	12	46	50

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	<b>Year ending 31/3/14</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/15</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/16</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/17</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/18</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/19</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/20</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/21</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/22</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/23</b>	<b>Y/E 31/3/24</b>
<b>Average total weekly pay per child to foster carers whilst actively fostering, including all fees and allowances</b>	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.	*Unable to provide accurate figure within the required timescale.

\*All carers are paid according different scales and ranges and according to the complexity of the child in their care and what is needed to provide safe and effective care. Some carers are only in receipt of the standard model allowance rate. To provide an accurate average figure for the year this would require analysing each foster carer's payment, averaging this over the year in question. This activity would take in excess of 18 hours work 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.