

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000260
Date 01 July 2016

Foster Care Services

Request:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for a copy of the documents containing the following information:

1. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates agreed with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services for the current year (2016/2017).

[IFA Placements 2016/2017](#)

Lowest per week	£508.20
Average per week	£720.83
Highest per week	£1218.29

2. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates paid to local authority carers.
[See attached.](#)

Please note that we do not require details of rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.

3. Percentage increase in weekly fee rates which were awarded to the previous year's levels.

IFA Placements	2015/2016	2016/2017	Difference
Lowest per week	£536.93	£508.20	5.35% decrease
Average per week	£768.56	£720.83	6.21% decrease
Highest per week	£1260.00	£1218.29	3.31% decrease

4. Details of the rates of each tier (if there is a framework agreement in place).

IFA Placements 2016/2017	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
Lowest per week	£595.00	£630.00	£644.00	£665.70
Average per week	£724.25	£744.99	£762.48	£772.41
Highest per week	£840.00	£849.00	£850.00	£850.00

5. The number of looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2016 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.

[Number in foster: 448](#)

[Independent foster agencies: 268](#)

[Therefore, % in IFA of all fostered: 59.8%](#)

FOSTERING FEES (From 03/01/2016)

	LEVEL	1 CHILD	2 CHILDREN	3 CHILDREN	EXEMPTION
FOST 3 (FAMILY & FRIENDS)	ONE	£85.00	£102.00	£119.00	£204.00
	Level One (Basic) - Approved Foster Carers who care and support before an SGO (Special Guardianship Order).				
FOST 2 (INTERNAL FOSTER CARERS)	TWO	£255.00	£306.00	£357.00	£614.00
	Level Two (Generic) - Approved Foster Carers (0-18 category) to receive Temporary, Respite and Permanent Placements.				
	THREE	£331.50	£397.70	£463.40	£663.00
	Level Three (Advanced) - Approved Foster Carers (0-18 category) to received more challenging placements. Temporary, Emergency, Respite, Shared Care, Short Breaks, Mother & Child placements and permanent placements (long term where linked and matched).				
	FOUR	£600.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Level Four (Advanced) - Approved Specialist Carers incorporates levels one, two and three. This will be in line with the Specialist Foster Care Protocol.				

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 021672
Date 11 February 2016

Children's Placements and Independent Foster Care Agencies

Request:

1. Does the authority operate a commissioning Framework for the provision of Independent Foster Agency services? - **Yes**
 - a. If so, when does the Framework expire? - **2018**
Is there a period to extend it? - **Yes**
 - b. Is the Framework accessed by a number of different authorities as part of a partnership or consortium? - **Yes**
2. What was the authority's spend on Independent Foster Agency Placements in the financial year 2014/2015?
£15.5 million
3. How many IFA placements did the authority make in the financial year 2014/2015? Please can you break these down by age category and gender? Please use the table below as a reference.

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	25	29	54
5- 9	26	26	52
10-14	36	44	80
15-17	12	44	56
Total	99	143	242

This is a table of the new IFA placements made between 01/04/14 and 31/03/15. These 242 IFA placements were concerning 178 individual children, as some LAC had multiple IFA placement starts in-year.

4. Please can you provide the contact details for the lead person for commissioning of IFA placements?

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