

Freedom of Information – Response – 26668

I'm researching the providers of unregistered children's homes, which are homes not registered with Ofsted. Please can you help with the following?

- 1. Please name the providers the council has paid for places in unregistered children's homes (not registered with Ofsted), including the*
(a) total number of placements for each provider,
(b) the total paid to each provider in 2024 and 2025? Please use the attached spreadsheet or your own spreadsheet.

The following providers have provided care in an arrangement that would be considered unregistered from 01/01/2024 to today (22/12/2025), and the number of placements for each provider.

Providers	Total number of placements for each provider	Total paid in 2024 and 2025
Provider 1	<5	£0 (to be invoiced – quote £1,768).
Provider 2	36	£7,839,747
Provider 3	19	£548,710
Provider 4	<5	£109,975
Provider 5 (CQC and now Ofsted registered).	<5	£607,504
Provider 6	<5	£421,075
Provider 7 (CQC registered)	<5	£44,783
Provider 8 (CQC registered)	<5	£38,016

Please note we are withholding the provider names under Freedom of Information act exemptions, section 38 Health & Safety, and section 43 Commercially sensitive.

Suffolk County Council cannot provide the list of all children's home within the local authority area as DfE have implemented the following protocol for managing this type of information.

Security of data

Ofsted can disclose the names and addresses of children's homes from its register to local authorities, the police and the DfE. Disclosure of that information must be made in accordance with the Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010 ('the Registration Regulations') as well as in accordance with the wider legal obligations contained in common law, the Data Protection Act 2018 and sector specific legislation.

The Joint protocol children's homes – procedures for disclosing names and addresses provides a joint framework of expectations and understanding in relation to the disclosure of details of the names and addresses of children's homes which have been requested under the Registration Regulations. It sets out how the receiving public authorities will be expected to receive and process this information.

Under this protocol, receiving public authorities will be expected to have due regard for the appropriate level at which the information is shared within their organisation and how this is effectively managed, in line with their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 2018. The data will be stored safely and securely in line with data assurance principles and will be protectively marked according to its level of sensitivity.

A public authority can only disclose personal data which has been received in accordance with the Registration Regulations where to do so is consistent with their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 2018 and any specific relevant legislation relating to the exercise of their functions.