

Freedom of Information – Response – 26988

I am aware of the data published by the Department for Education within the “Children looked after in England, including adoptions” statistical releases. However, the specific breakdowns requested below are not available within the published tables, which is why this FOI request has been submitted.

Please kindly include responses on the attached spreadsheet, in an Excel (.xlsx) format.

1. Please could you supply the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the commissioner with responsibility for Looked After Children and/or placements in children’s homes.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) do not share personal details of individual staff. The Head of Strategic Commissioning and the Head of Service for Care and Support for Looked After Children hold responsibility for Looked After Children and placements in Children’s Homes.

For questions 2-5 and 7, please supply data for the following financial years – 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, and, where possible, an estimate or most up-to-date snapshot available for 2025/26.

2. Of the number of children looked after by the local authority on 31 March, please provide the number in regulated children’s homes (excluding unregulated children’s homes, secure units and hostels).

3. Of the number of children looked after by the local authority on 31 March in regulated children’s homes (Q2), please provide the number placed inside the local authority boundary (in-area) and the number placed outside the local authority boundary (out-of-area).

4. Of the number of children looked after by the local authority on 31 March in regulated children’s homes, please provide the number in:

- a) In-area regulated children’s homes operated by the local authority*
- b) Out-of-area regulated children’s homes operated by the local authority*
- c) In-area regulated children’s homes operated by the private/voluntary sector*
- d) Out-of-area regulated children’s homes operated by the private/voluntary sector.*

Please see table below:

	Qu 2	Qu 3		Qu 4			
	Children Homes - Total	In County	Out of County	In County	Out of County	In County	Out of County
31st March 2023	52	35	17	11	0	24	17
31st March 2024	88	56	32	15	0	41	32
31st March 2025	118	81	37	24	0	57	37
28th Feb 2026	134	89	45	23	0	66	45

5. Please provide the local authority's total expenditure on placements for Looked After Children in regulated children's homes during the financial year ending 31 March. Expenditure should exclude expenses related to travel, social work visits, travel arrangements/accommodation for contact visits from relatives/guardians, and non-staff transport costs.

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£15,831,040.82	£21,624,721.71	£26,579,997.85	£33,447,308.04

6. For the current financial year ending 31 March 2026 or as recent as possible (provide date), please provide the highest, average (mean), and lowest weekly fees currently paid by the local authority for placements for Looked After Children in regulated children's homes. Please include data across all placements in regulated children's homes, independent of whether they are made in-area or out-of-area and in local authority or private/voluntary sector provision.

(as of 11th March 2026):

Lowest Weekly Fee: £3950 (have not included shared care costs)

Highest Weekly Fee: £16,660.00 (cost is shared with Health)

Average Weekly Fee: £6,870.33

7. Please provide the total number of children (children looked after and children in need) accessing short-break-only children's homes on 31 March.

SCC do not have children placed in short break only children's homes