

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27907

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request statistical information regarding children entering care and placement types managed by your local authority. Please provide data for the following financial years: 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 (or the most recent 5 completed financial/reporting years available).

Requested Data

1. Total Looked After Children (LAC):

o The total number of children who entered the care system (became "Looked After") during each specified year.

2. Kinship Care Placements:

o The total number of children placed in formal Kinship Care arrangements during each specified year. Please break this down by legal status where recorded:

♣ Kinship Fostering (formal foster care with relatives/friends)

♣ Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) granted to kinship carers

♣ Child Arrangements Orders (CAOs) granted to kinship carers

3. Standard Fostering Placements:

o The total number of children placed with non-relative local authority or independent foster agency (IFA) carers during each specified year.

4. Adoption:

o The total number of children who were successfully placed for adoption or had an Adoption Order granted during each specified year.

5. Percentages / Proportions:

o If held, the percentage split of children entering care who were placed in Kinship Care vs. Standard Fostering vs. Adoption in each year.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Data based on LCS recording
Cohort	April - March	April - March	April - March	April - March	April - March	
1 CIC Starting	323	383	298	285	337	Will include duplicates if a child became looked after twice in a year
2a Kinship	33	47	38	47	80	Initial placement on becoming looked after (will include duplicates if a child became looked after twice in a year starting in the same placement type)
2b SGO	33	21	8	25	21	Children ceasing to be looked after
2b CAO	15	7	13	11	16	Children ceasing to be looked after
3 Fostering	176	194	144	115	149	Initial placement on becoming looked after (will include duplicates if a child became looked after twice in a year starting in the same placement type)
4a Adoption Placement	0	0	0	0	0	Initial placement on becoming looked after (will include duplicates if a child became looked after twice in a year starting in the same placement type)
4b Adoption Order	56	42	29	54	28	Children ceasing to be looked after
5a Proportion entering care - Kinship	10%	12%	13%	16%	24%	% of total CIC starting in year with initial placement as specified
5b Proportion entering care - Standard Fostering	54%	51%	48%	40%	44%	% of total CIC starting in year with initial placement as specified
5c Proportion entering care - Adoption	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	% of total CIC starting in year with initial placement as specified