

12 May 2021  
Our ref: 7237780

Thank you for your request received on 20 April 2021, for the following information:  
**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 (2021/2022).**

**2. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates paid to local authority carers.**

**(Please note that for questions 1 and 2, we do not require details of all rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.)**

**3. Details of the rates of each tier for independent fostering agencies (if there is a framework agreement in place), or confirmation that tier rates have not changed from the previous year.**

**4. The number of looked after children in foster care as of 31 March 2021 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.**

**We would like the above information supplied to us as electronic copies.**

**If you have any questions about this request, or if this request is too broad or unclear, please contact the writer.**

**If you deny any part of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify us of appeal procedures available to us under the law.**

**We look forward to hearing from you within 20 working days (by Tuesday 18 May 2021), as the statute requires.**

**We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

## **Response**

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

**1. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates agreed with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services for the current year (2021/2022).**

The latest information available is from Month 12 (as of 31 March 2021):

Excluding parent and child placements:

Minimum £676

Maximum £1666

Average £974

Including parent and child placements:

Minimum £676

Maximum £1802

Average £988

**2. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates paid to local authority carers.**

Minimum £369

Maximum £535

Average £467

***(Please note that for questions 1 and 2, we do not require details of all rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.)***

**3. Details of the rates of each tier for independent fostering agencies (if there is a framework agreement in place), or confirmation that tier rates have not changed from the previous year.**

- 0-15 £905
- 16-17 £923
- Parent and child £1506
- Specialist £1400

**4. The number of looked after children in foster care as of 31 March 2021 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.**

=170 children in Foster care placements as at 31 March 2021

47% in Independent Foster placements

**Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

**Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

**Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.