

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to The [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021](#)

It's been 18 months since new rules came into place that guaranteed children aged under-16 would be housed in regulated accommodation where they receive day to day care.

Regulated accommodation, according to the Act, includes:

- a care home
- a hospital as defined in section 275(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006
- a residential family centre as defined in section 4(2) of the Care Standards Act
- a school within the meaning of section 4 of the Education Act 1996(4) providing accommodation that is not registered as a children's home
- an establishment that provides care and accommodation for children as a holiday scheme for disabled children as defined in regulation 2(1) of the Residential Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2013

Under the new rules, children aged 16-18 are no longer guaranteed to be housed in accommodation where they receive day-to-day care and can instead be housed in independent or semi-independent accommodation where they instead receive "support". This is also known as "unregulated" accommodation.

Please could you provide the following information. Please note there are four parts to my request.

**1.**

How many (i) care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation and (ii) how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation.

Unregulated accommodation is sometimes known as "independent accommodation" or "semi-independent accommodation".

By care experienced children I mean children who are known to the council and who have been living in foster care or residential accommodation or another form of regulated accommodation as outlined above.

By unregulated accommodation I mean accommodation for care experienced children aged 16 and over, where they can receive support but not care. Please use this [article](#) from Become

1.  
(i) **58**  
(ii) **31**

<p>Charity for more information on what defines unregulated accommodation.</p> <p>It does not include foster homes, residential care, hospital settings, residential school settings.</p> <p><b>2.</b> How many care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?</p> <p><b>3.</b> How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?</p> <p><b>4.</b> Please can you provide information on what mechanisms are in place to ensure that children housed in independent or semi-independent accommodation are properly cared for. Information could be but is not limited to guidance for housing providers or landlords, guidance for social workers, guidance for children and young people.</p>	<p><b>2. 86</b></p> <p><b>3. 2</b></p> <p><b>4:</b> Providers used are subject to minimum standards (via Placements Northwest) for semi-independent accommodation. Feedback from social workers and IRO is gathered. Desktop reviews are undertaken followed by QA visits to ensure these minimum standards are met and accommodation/support is of good quality. Young people in the LA supported lodgings scheme are visited by the allocated social worker, IRO and there is oversight from the supported lodgings co-ordinator.</p>
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