

Request

1. How many individual children (not placements) were placed into mainstream foster care by the local authority over the past 12 months (or the most recent 12-month period that you're able to process)?
2. Of those, please confirm how many individual children (not placements) were placed with foster carers of independent fostering agencies.
3. What is the minimum, maximum and average weekly agency fee you have given to IFAs for individual children (not placements) placed as 'standard' placements?
4. Of the independent fostering agencies used by the local authority, which company provides the most placements for individual children?
5. What is the average weekly cost for in-house local authority provision for individual children placed as 'standard' placements?
6. For the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 (so far):
 - a. How many individual children were placed with foster carers of independent fostering agencies
 - b. How many individual children were placed with in-house/council-registered foster carers
 - c. What is your annual spend on: in-house fostering, independent fostering agencies, residential children's homes?
7. What is the current average cost of a residential placement for an individual child with an IFA and what is the cost for a residential placement for an individual child with a council-registered provider?

Response

1 136

2 68

3 Table below

IFA	
Min	480.69
Average	895.98
Maximum	1,394.90

4 Fostering Solutions

5 412.96 (average amount paid to Foster Carers during 23/24 financial year.)

6a Table below

IFA	
2018/2019	49
2019/2020	57
2020/2021	89
2021/2022	118
2022/2023	125
2023/2024	153

6b Table below

In House	
2018/2019	436
2019/2020	446
2020/2021	490
2021/2022	479
2022/2023	487
2023/2024	511

6c Table below

	IFA	Internal Foster	External Residential
2018/19	1,588,512	6,139,238	5,397,841
2019/20	1,474,891	6,203,783	5,663,473
2020/21	2,378,799	7,277,142	11,143,901
2021/22	3,630,734	8,733,516	16,758,159
2022/23	4,234,361	9,263,870	20,757,311
2023/24	5,129,514	10,686,890	20,156,150

7 Current average of a 'Standard' residential placement with a private provider: £5514

Current average of a residential placement with a council registered provider: £5027