



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.

placementsearches@wigan.gov.uk

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides an exemption if the information requested constitutes personal data and if one of three conditions is satisfied; a name and contact details is personal data. The first condition under section 40(3A)(a) is satisfied if disclosure would breach any of the Data Protection Principles in UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The first data protection principle is that personal data processing must be lawful. The only possible lawful bases for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would be consent or legitimate interests. As those at senior management level – the Chief Executive, Directors and Assistant Directors - are accountable for many of the executive decisions made by the Council, there is a legitimate interest in disclosing their names in response to an FOI request. Furthermore, as they would expect their names to be in the public domain as senior managers, it would be fair to disclose their names in response to an FOI request. For staff below this level, they are not ultimately accountable for decisions and they would not necessarily expect their names to be in the public domain. Therefore, there is no legitimate interest in disclosing their details and any such processing would not be fair to them as data subjects. The Council therefore does not have a lawful basis to process the personal data of staff below Assistant Director Level in this way and section 40(3)(A)(a) of the Act is satisfied.

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).

Year	Number
22/23	69
23/24	69
24/25	81
15/03/2026	77

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).

Year	Inside	Outside
22/23	26	43
23/24	29	40
24/25	37	44
15/03/2026	38	39

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:

Year	4a.	4b.	4c.	4d.
22/23	8	0	18	43
23/24	5	0	24	40
24/25	7	0	30	44
15/03/2026	6	0	32	39

- 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

5. Out-of-area regulated children's homes operated by the private/voluntary sector.

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.

Expenditure shown below excludes any local authority provisions that provide outreach support and respite care alongside residential care placements, as running costs cannot be accurately apportioned to give a total expenditure for residential placements only.

Figures shown are net of any joint contributions to placement costs.

Year	£
2022/23	21,325,348
2023/24	20,800,746
2024/25	25,039,231
2025/26*	25,963,310*

*Outturn projections generated 01/03/26.

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.

20.03.2026

Highest: £13,750.00
Average: £6,346.98
Lowest: £3837.95

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.

On March 31st 2025 (which is the only available data) 34 children were registered for access to short-breaks however this does not mean they accessed a short-breaks provision on this date.