

FOI 3194

30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

---

**In relation to B&B, long-term rental and hotel accommodation used by Social Services to accommodate both those under-18 receiving care and staff over the last five years broken down by constituency, please outline:**

### **The names of accommodation used**

**Response:**

This information is exempt under FOI Section 38 Health and safety. (1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to — (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

The Trust is unable to provide this information as this is exempt from release for health and safety reasons, due to the risk of endangering the safety of the young people and staff residing at this accommodation. The Trust is mindful of its duty of care in protecting patients and staff and considers this information to be exempt from release into the public domain under section 38 of the FOI Act (Health and Safety exemption).

### Section 38 - 'Health & Safety'

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to—

- (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or
- (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

See Appendix 1 below for further details of this exemption.

### **The nightly rates agreed**

**Response:**

The Trust does not hold this data in a readily available format and to provide it would require a manual trawl of records, which would take more than 18 hours.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

### The overall annual cost per provider

**Response:**

Provider	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Accommodation 1	-	-	15	24	18
Accommodation 2	-	12	4	4	-
Accommodation 3	-	15	7	-	-
Accommodation 4	-	1	2	-	-
Accommodation 5	-	-	2	3	-
Accommodation 6	-	-	2	-	-
Accommodation 7	-	-	1	1	-

### The number of nights used in each provider

**Response:**

The Trust does not hold this data in a readily available format and to provide it would require a manual trawl of records, which would take more than 18 hours.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. In order to obtain this information and it would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

### Appendix 1

### **EXEMPTION CLAIMED IN RESPECT OF SECTION 38 (1) (a) HEALTH AND SAFETY**

<b>Arguments in favour of disclosing Information</b>	<b>Arguments in favour of not disclosing Information</b>
Openness, transparency and accountability in Trust decision making and procedures.	The Trust believes the disclosure of details about B&B, long-term rental and hotel accommodation used by Social Services to accommodate both those under-18 receiving care and staff would pose a safety and security risk to the young residents and staff. This could be detrimental to the mental health of these individuals.
To ensure that service provision is carried out and managed in an open and honest way	Release of these details may adversely affect the young people and staff resident in this accommodation. Their privacy and their right to confidentiality may be compromised.
	Due to the often sensitive nature of these services and the circumstances leading to these placements, there is a significant risk that disclosure of this information would result in a lack of public confidence in the Trust.

Having considered the public interest arguments in relation to this information, it is the Trust view that the balance lies in favour of non-disclosure of all available information, particularly in relation to all internal correspondence and location of services. There is a greater public interest in withholding this information and not releasing into the public domain under the FOI Act. It is the Trust view that the public interest is met in the release of the information disclosed with this response.

Email: [Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net)