

FOI 3784

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

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

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**I would like to make an enquiry pertaining to the number of children who are currently in care of the southern health trust who are awaiting placement in foster care as of 12/05/2026**

**Response:** There are 0 children who are in the care of the Trust currently waiting for a foster placement.

**Furthermore, since the start of the year January of 2026, how many children have been allocated a place from care of the Southern Trust into a foster care family?**

**Response:** 24 children have been placed with foster carers since January 2026 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**Also, on average over the course of the last six years, from January of 2020, how many children have come into the care of the southern trust and how many have been allocated a place within a suitable foster family within this same timeframe?**

**Response:** From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 there were 867 admitted to the care of the Southern Trust. 763 of these children were placed with suitable foster carers upon admission to care.

**Furthermore, if possible, we would also like to shed some light on the challenges faced by the trust in finding children a suitable place in foster care. Thus, can you please provide me with the contact details of a suitable qualified person within the Trust who I could speak to over the course of a quick five-to-ten-minute telephone interview to shed some light on the difficulties faced by the Trust in allocating children a suitable place in foster care?**

**Response:** Melanie Coffey, Head of Service, Fostering and Adoption services.  
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