

FOI 3846

15th July 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question 1. The number of adoptions which broke down in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 (broken down by year)

Response: For each year from 2016 – 2025 inclusive** - < 5*

* The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

In 2026 – 5 disruptions**

***Please note that historically, information was not formally gathered on this area but from records and corporate memory a response was gathered.*

Question 2. The length of time that each legal adoption which broke down lasted for

Response: 2016 – the range of placement length is 9-10 years

2017– the response is 7 years

2018– 0 disruptions

2019– the information is unknown as this data was not gathered

2020– the range of placement length is unknown in some instances and for other is 4 years 7 months

2021– the range of placement length is 6-8 years

2022– the range of placement length is unknown in some instances and for other is 9 years

2023– the range of placement length is 8-11 years
2024– the range of placement length is 10 years
2025– the range of placement length is 13 years
2026– the range of placement length is 8-13 years

Question 3. The age of the child involved in each legal adoption which broke down

Response: 2015 - 0

2016 - age range was 15-17 years
2017 - 13
2018 - 0
2019 - 12
2020 - age range was 15-16 years
2021 - age range was 14-15 years
2022 - age range was 13-15 years
2023 - age range was 14-16 years
2024 - 14
2025 - 16
2026 - age range was 9-15 years

Question 4. The number of planned adoptions which broke down in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 (broken down by year)

Response: Data was not gathered previously on this area and is not available for 2016 – 2023 inclusive.

With regards to the number of planned adoptions within 2016 – 2023, inclusive, This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual client records. As such we cannot provide this information 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. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

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.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual client records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that adoption records would be used in this way.

Furthermore, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we can advise that it would require an extensive manual review of information just to ascertain if information relevant to your request is held. As such, we advise that there is no way to refine this request to bring it within the appropriate limit.

2024 – <5*
2025 – <5*

2026 – <5*

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

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Question 5. The length of time each planned adoption lasted for before it broke down

Response: 2024 – the placement length is 3 years and 29 days
2025 – the range of placement length ranges from 16 days to 78 days
2026 – the placement length is 111 days

Question 6. The age of the child involved in each planned adoption which broke down

Response: 2024 - Age range is 3-6 years
2025 - Age range is from 20 days – 2 years
2026 - Age is 1 year

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