

Our ref: FOI – 1527

15th March 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

In relation to the months of July – December 2022 for each month please detail the following:

1. How many 16 year and 17 year old young people have been assessed by your Trust following a presentation as homeless in each month detailed above?

Month	Number of 16 year olds	Number of 17 year olds
July	0	0
August	<5	0
September	<5	0
October	0	<5
November	0	<5
December	<5	0

Where the response involves low numbers the figure <5 has been provided. This is because releasing the exact figure has the potential to lead to the identification of an individual (s). The Trust has applied Section 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to exempt the exact figures from disclosure

2. In respect of these cases how many of the 16 year olds were provided with accommodation under Article 21 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment? How many of these children were classified as a “looked after child”?

Nil

3. In respect of these cases how many of the 16 year olds were termed to be children in need for the purposes of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment?

<5

Where a child referred due to Homelessness has been assessed as a “Child in Need”, the initial assessment and intervention involves engagement with the

family network and support is put in place to either keep the young person at home, or the family have identified an alternative extended family carer. As such, the young person will have been supported as a child in need.

- 4. In respect of these cases how many of the 17 year olds were provided with accommodation under Article 21 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment? How many of these children were classified as a “looked after child”?**

<5

In response to a referral or assessment in relation to youth homelessness , all young people provided with accommodation by the Trust are managed and supported as Looked After..

- 5. In respect of these cases how many of the 17 year olds were termed to be children in need for the purposes of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment?**

<5

See note para 3

- 6. In respect of the cases above how many of the 16 year olds were accommodated by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive?**

Nil

- 7. In respect of the cases above how many of the 17 year olds were accommodated by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive?**

Nil

- 8. What is the budget within your Trust for providing accommodation to homeless 16 and 17 year olds?**

The Trust do not hold a specific accommodation budget for 16 and 17 years assessed as homeless

- 9. What Trust facilities are available for providing accommodation to homeless 16 and 17 year olds within your Trust?**

Trust-managed foster care and supported lodgings; referral pathway to supported accommodation.

- 10. For each of the months above how many 16 and 17 year olds within your Trust were accommodated in Bed and Breakfast accommodation? Please provide a figure for the cost of this accommodation by month above.**

<5 placed in guesthouse accommodation; £2600 per month.

There was one occasion when the Trust received a late referral for a young person almost 18 years old, The Trust assessed the young person as self sufficient and no immediate vulnerabilities. The Trust explored family and friends options without success, a foster placement could not be identified and he was provided with Guesthouse accommodation with a wrap around support package. The young person was classified as Looked After Child and review as per policy and procedures. This placement has since ended.

11. How many 16 and 17 year olds presented to your Trust after having left the family home but were not assessed as being homeless?

Nil

12. How many social workers are employed by your trust to work with homeless 16 and 17 year olds?

There are 2 social workers currently employed as Youth Homeless workers.

13. Does your trust run training on Article 21 homelessness and the regional good practice guidance on meeting the accommodation needs of homeless 16-21 year olds for its staff? If so what training.

Housing Rights Association provide training for the Trust.

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