

Freedom of Information Request

1) The number of fostering households registered with your fostering service

We have 493 foster carers, of whom 294 are stranger foster carers (includes, emergency, short break, short term and long term foster carers as well as foster carers specifically for children with disabilities), and 199 are kinship foster carers.

2) The current percentage of Foster Carers who are paid a fee across all of your fostering services.

3) a) The variations in fees for Foster Carers within your trust.

Total number of Registered Stranger Foster Carers	285											
		6.5K	13K	18K	19K	19.5K	22K	24K	26K	27K	31K	36K
Number of Fee Paid Carers	109	7	62	23	0	7	1	1	5	0	2	1

Total number of Kinship Carers	199											
		6.5K	13K	18K	19K	19.5K	22K	24K	26K	27K	31K	36K
Number of Fee Paid Kinship Carers	20	4	13	2	0	1						

b) What the criteria is for Foster Carers to qualify for each fee variation.

The criteria used includes the number of children being cared for in a home, the age of children, complexity of behaviours/disabilities, care planning related issues, carers required to come out of work.

c) How many Foster Carers receive each of the delineated pay variations?

As above

4) How many looked after children from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust are being accommodated via a private fostering service and what the monthly costs of this have been over the last 12 months.

YEAR 2020/21

MONTH	NO OF CHILDREN	COST OF SERVICE £000'S
Apr/May	22	123
June	25	168
July	26	64
August	26	83
Sept	34	142
Oct	32	181
Nov	32	98
Dec	32	105
Jan '21	35	100
Feb '21	31	118
Mar '21	35	92