



Reference: FOI1080

**Request:**

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for a copy of the documents containing the following information:

1. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates agreed with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services for the current year (2019/2020).

No placements have been made during the financial year 2019/20 with external suppliers of Independent Foster Care Services therefore no individual placement fees have been agreed. The NE7 framework pricing schedule is attached

2. Details of the lowest, highest and average weekly fee rates paid to local authority carers.

See attached "FEES 2018-19" document

3. Details of the rates of each tier for independent fostering agencies (if there is a framework agreement in place), or confirmation that tier rates have not changed from the previous year.

See attached NE7 framework pricing schedule

4. The number of looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2019 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.

There were 245 looked after children in foster care as at 31 March 2019 and of those children, 9.4% were looked after by independent foster agencies.