

## 60590 Looked After Children

Please could you supply the name, job title, telephone number and email address of the commissioner with responsibility for Looked After Children and/or placements in children's homes.

Please supply data for the following financial years – 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, and, where possible, an estimate or most up-to-date snapshot available for 2025/26.

Of the number of children looked after by the local authority on 31 March, please provide the number in regulated children's homes (excluding unregulated children's homes, secure units and hostels).

Of the number of children looked after by the local authority on 31 March in regulated children's homes, please provide the number placed inside the local authority boundary (in-area) and the number placed outside the local authority boundary (out-of-area).

Of the number of children looked after by the local authority on 31 March in regulated children's homes, please provide the number in:

In-area regulated children's homes operated by the local authority

Out-of-area regulated children's homes operated by the local authority

In-area regulated children's homes operated by the private/voluntary sector

Out-of-area regulated children's homes operated by the private/voluntary sector.

Please provide the local authority's total expenditure on placements for Looked After Children in regulated children's homes during the financial year ending 31 March. Expenditure should exclude expenses related to travel, social work visits, travel arrangements/accommodation for contact visits from relatives/guardians, and non-staff transport costs.

For the current financial year ending 31 March 2026 **or** as recent as possible (provide date), please provide the highest, average (mean), and lowest weekly fees currently paid by the local authority for placements for Looked After Children in regulated children's homes. Please include data across all placements in regulated children's homes, independent of whether they are made in-area or out-of-area and in local authority or private/voluntary sector provision.

Please provide the total number of children (children looked after and children in need) accessing short-break-only children's homes on 31 March.

[Most of the information requested is attached.](#)

[Given the variety of provisions and range of needs included in the spend provided, we are unable to provide a meaningful average due to recording complexities on our current case management system. The data provided on the number of children cannot be linked directly to the spend. The actual costs provided comprise a mix of provisions including residential units \(internal, voluntary sector, private and independent sector\), residential schools and day placements for out of authority schools across a wide range of age groups, including 18–21-year-olds. The financial cost of these provisions and 18+ group is not recorded separately, and so further work would be required to identify costs for individual placements, including](#)

those placements which have been included in the response prepared by the data performance team.