



Reference: FOI-681

**Request:**

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to The [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021](#)

It's been 18 months since new rules came into place that guaranteed children aged under-16 would be housed in regulated accommodation where they receive day to day care.

Regulated accommodation, according to the Act, includes:

- a care home
- a hospital as defined in section 275(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006
- a residential family centre as defined in section 4(2) of the Care Standards Act
- a school within the meaning of section 4 of the Education Act 1996(4) providing accommodation that is not registered as a children's home
- an establishment that provides care and accommodation for children as a holiday scheme for disabled children as defined in regulation 2(1) of the Residential Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2013

Under the new rules, children aged 16-18 are no longer guaranteed to be housed in accommodation where they receive day-to-day care and can instead be housed in independent or semi-independent accommodation where they instead receive "support". This is also known as "unregulated" accommodation.

Please could you provide the following information. Please note there are four parts to my request.

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1. How many (i) care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation and (ii) how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged 16-17 (inclusive) are currently housed in unregulated accommodation.

Unregulated accommodation is sometimes known as "independent accommodation" or "semi-independent accommodation".

By care experienced children I mean children who are known to the council and who have been living in foster care or residential accommodation or another form of regulated accommodation as outlined above.

By unregulated accommodation I mean accommodation for care experienced children aged 16 and over, where they can receive support but not care. Please use this [article](#) from Become Charity for more information on what defines unregulated accommodation.

It does not include foster homes, residential care, hospital settings, residential school settings.

2. How many care experienced children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?
3. How many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in your local authority aged 16-17 have gone missing between 18 February 2021 and 1 March 2023?
4. Please can you provide information on what mechanisms are in place to ensure that children housed in independent or semi-independent accommodation are properly cared for. Information could be but is not

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limited to guidance for housing providers or landlords, guidance for social workers, guidance for children and young people.

**Response:**

1. i) 14  
ii) 24
2. 20
3. 3
4. Intensive packages of support are commissioned tailored to the child's needs. As the child's independence develops, this is carefully monitored, and the support package is reduced at the child's pace. We have no children in supported settings who are not receiving a package of support. All our commissioned providers work to this specification.

The children's needs are assessed and reviewed by a social worker, with the oversight of an Independent Reviewing Officer at their child in care reviews, which are attended by the multi-agency care team.

Quality monitoring visits are undertaken at least annually to all providers who care for or support North Tyneside children in care / care experienced young people. These visits are carried out jointly between commissioning and operational managers.