



Reference: FOI3752

**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 (2021/2022).\**

**\*\*The lowest fee is £354 and the highest fee is £1021. Information on averages not held.\*\***

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

**\*\*The lowest fee is £110 per week and the highest is now £550 per week. There are some carers that remained on an old scheme so that they weren't disadvantaged when we looked at fees, which is £600 per week. Information on averages not held.\*\***

**(Please note that for questions 1 and 2, we do not require details of all rates paid to individual suppliers, simply minimum, maximum and average rates payable.)**

**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.**

**\*\*Please see attached '\_NE7 Fee Structure 2020-21'\_ . Please note that a fee uplift has not yet been confirmed for 2021/22 so these are still the current fees payable.\*\***

**4. The number of looked after children in foster care as of 31 March 2021 and of those children, the percentage looked after by independent foster agencies.\**

**\*\*205 children in foster care, 14% of which with independent fostering agencies.\*\***