

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_20190657**
Date FOI Received: **12/09/2019**
Department: **Hertfordshire County Council (Not Hertsmere Borough Council)**
Title: **Looked after children**
Description: **Details of looked after children accommodated in residential facilities and the associated costs.**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

To whom it may concern,

Representing a number of social care experts across the UK, it's important that spokespeople are armed with accurate data. One subject, where media enquiries are becoming more frequent, is looked after children and the spiralling cost of children's services.

In order to better inform the commentary I am contacting local authorities across England. Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

- I. How many looked after children under 18 was the authority responsible for at financial year end, 2018/19?
- II. How many of these were accommodated in residential facilities within the authority?
- III. How many of these were accommodated in residential facilities outside the authority?
- IV. What was the average weekly cost of accommodating these children outside the authority?
- V. What was the average weekly cost of accommodating these children inside the authority?
- VI. What was the total annual spend on accommodating looked after children in residential facilities, inside and outside the authority?

In the interests of providing a reflective average, please feel free to highlight or exclude any cases where, for exceptional medical reasons, the average weekly costs are significantly above your norm.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

Thank you for your query.

Hertfordshire is a two tier area and this service is not provided at a district level but by the County Council.

Therefore, please refer your FOI request to Hertfordshire County Council who will be able to help you.

Kind regards
FOI