

08/04/2025

Dear Applicant,

**Re: Your Freedom of Information Request dated 28/02/2025, Our Reference FOI 15847**

I write further to your recent request for information which the Education Authority received on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Your request is set out as follows:

***“Thank you for your response FOI 15238 of 13 Jan 2025 with information on the work of the EA’s Education Welfare Service, in particular as it pertains to services provided to children of families living in NIHE emergency or non-standard accommodation.***

***To help us understand uptake levels of the services described in the earlier FOI response, please provide information on***

- (a) the overall number of families supported by the Education Welfare Service during the 2023/24 school year***
- (b) the number of families in Housing Executive emergency or non-standard accommodation supported by the Education Welfare Service during the 2023/24 school year***
- (c) the overall number of families supported by the Education Welfare Service to date during this 2024/25 school year***
- (d) the number of families in Housing Executive emergency or non-standard accommodation supported by the Education Welfare Service to date during this 2024/25 school year”***

**EA Response**

Section 1(1)(a) of FOIA requires the Education Authority (EA) to inform a requester whether it holds the information specified in their request. I write to confirm, by virtue of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that the EA do not hold the information requested.

***(a) the overall number of families supported by the Education Welfare Service during the 2023/24 school year***

I write to confirm, by virtue of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that the EA do not hold the information requested. The EA do not hold information on the number of families supported by EA Education Welfare Service. However, the number of individual cases worked by EA Education Welfare Service in 2023/24 was 8,548.

***(b) the number of families in Housing Executive emergency or non-standard accommodation supported by the Education Welfare Service during the 2023/24 school year***

I write to confirm, by virtue of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that the EA do not hold the information requested.

***(c) the overall number of families supported by the Education Welfare Service to date during this 2024/25 school year.***

I write to confirm, by virtue of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that the EA do hold the information requested. The EA do not hold information on the number of families supported by EA Education Welfare Service. However, the number of individual cases worked by EA Education Welfare Service to date for 2024/25 is 6,806.

***(d) the number of families in Housing Executive emergency or non-standard accommodation supported by the Education Welfare Service to date during this 2024/25 school year.***

I write to confirm, by virtue of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), that the EA do not hold the information requested.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of this response or the way we have handled your request, you have the right to complain, within 40 working days of the date of this response, by writing directly to:

Information Governance Unit (IR)  
Education Authority  
40 Academy Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2NQ

Or by emailing: [infogov@eani.org.uk](mailto:infogov@eani.org.uk)

In that event we will conduct an internal review of our response, the outcome of which you will be notified of upon conclusion of the internal review.

If, after conclusion of the internal review process, you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint, you have the right to complain further to the Information Commissioner's Office at the address below:

The Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01 625 54 57 45/0303 123 1113, website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner will be unlikely to make a decision until you have been through our internal review process first.

The EA uses your personal information such as name and email address in order to comply with our legal obligations to respond to your FOI request. For further information on how

and why EA collects and processes your personal information please see the detailed Privacy Notices on our website <https://www.eani.org.uk/about-us/privacy/ea-privacy-notices>.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss your request further. I may be contacted using the details provided below. Please quote reference number FOI 15847 in all communications to help us to deal with them more promptly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paula Sands'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Paula Sands** | Assistant Information Governance Officer  
Information Governance | Corporate Services | Human Resources and Corporate Services



Education Authority  
40 Academy Street, BELFAST, BT1 2NQ  
email: [Paula.Sands@eani.org.uk](mailto:Paula.Sands@eani.org.uk)