



Our ref: 69178061
14 November 2024



Freedom of Information Act 2000



Thank you for the Freedom of Information Request you have made. I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham Children's Trust, however our records only go as far back as 2020.

Request

The number of children in your local authority area classified as 'in need' referred to social services where a child was at risk of female genital mutilation. From 2019 to present.

The number of children in your local authority classified as 'in need' referred to social services two or more times where a child was at risk of female genital mutilation. From 2019 to present.

The total number of children in your local authority area classified as 'in need' referred two or more times to social services where a child was at risk of female genital mutilation. From 2019 to present.

Response

The response is contained within the attached spreadsheet as per your request.

Please quote the reference number **69178061** in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response. Please outline which part of the response you are not happy with setting out your reasons.

This request should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team
PO Box 16366
Birmingham
B2 2YY
Email: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Birmingham Children's Trust's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

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Disclosure Officer

Re Use of Public Sector Information

Where Birmingham Children's Trust is the copyright holder of any information that may be released, re-use for personal, educational or non-commercial purposes is permitted without further reference to the Birmingham Children's Trust. Where the re-use is for other purposes, such as commercial re-use, the applicant should notify the Birmingham Children's Trust in writing to seek approval or agree terms for re-use.

	Children in need at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)		
	Number of Referrals	Number of Children	Children with multiple referrals (>1)
2019	-	-	-
2020	20	20	0
2021	51	47	≤5
2022	52	52	0
2023	82	78	≤5
2024 up to 11-11-2024	46	46	0

Some information has been withheld. This information is exempt under Section 40(2) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). Where the number is 5 or less, the Trust has replaced the figure with 'equal to or less than 5' ("≤5"). The numbers have been withheld to prevent individuals being identified; this is in line with the Information Commissioners guidance of anonymization, which mitigates the risk of individuals being identified. The Trust considers that individuals could potentially be identified from the very low numbers and that such identification would constitute a breach of one of the principles set out under the Data Protection Act 2018. This is on the basis that it could be combined with other reasonably available information to identify individuals. As this is personal data, disclosure under Freedom of Information is conditional upon satisfying the First Data Protection Principle, that processing be fair, lawful and transparent. We recognise that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability in public decision making. We have balanced this against the privacy rights of the individual data subjects.

On balance, we consider the detriment to privacy through disclosure outweighs the interest that would be served. Accordingly, disclosure would be in contravention of the First Data Protection Principle. It is therefore appropriate for us to withhold this information under section 40(2) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) by virtue of section 40(3A)(a). Therefore we are exempting this part of the request under section 40(2) of the Act by virtue of section 40(3A)(a) of the same Act.