



Our ref: 69261650
20 November 2024



I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham Children's Trust. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Request

- 1. Does your local authority have a clear and documented procedure for record-keeping of children at risk of forced marriage?**
- 2. Please provide the number of children considered to be at risk of forced marriage (categorised by age) for each year from 2019/20 to 2024/25.**

Response

- 1. The Trust doesn't have a specific policy for record keeping of children at risk of forced marriage.**

The Trust utilises the regional procedures: 2.22 Forced marriage | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group The following section is pertinent to this request:

Any child considered to be at risk of a forced marriage will be considered a child in need and assessed accordingly. Where an Initial Child Protection Conference is convened, great care must be taken to manage information about the whereabouts of the young person.

All information and discussions must be managed on a need to know basis to ensure there is not either intentional or un-intentional leaking of strategy to the family/community. The social worker and his/her manager must discuss the arrangements with the Conference Chair and consider whether the family should be present or not, or at the same time as the young person, as threats may be made.

An interpreter fully independent of the family should be present at all times. In incidences where an individual is moved to a safe area, it is recommended that address changes on electronic records should be anonymised for the safety of

that individual with identified appropriate designated professionals to hold that information.

Risk and/or allegations of plans and arrangements to force a child to marry will inevitably involve either the family or local community. Professionals must not automatically involve the family or community in the management of the risk. Overlaying the procedure above is our Recording Policy and Guidelines.

2. As per your request, our response to this question is contained within the attached spreadsheet.

Please note that this data has come from the Trust's case management system where the reason for the referral is linked to forced marriage, however this doesn't necessarily mean that every child within the cohort is at risk of forced marriage. This means there have been concerns raised by, professionals, community or family that a child is at risk of forced marriage.

Please quote the reference number **69261650** 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

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	IR - forced marriage 69261650	Age Breakdown
	Number of children considered to be at risk of forced marriage	The information you have requested is not held in a readily accessible format. I can confirm that the Trust has kept a manual record (i.e. outside of case management systems).
2019	data from this year is not held by the Trust	
2020	78	From undertaking a sampling exercise in respect to similar Fol requests in the past, we estimate that it takes approximately 10 minutes to locate the file and locate specific information contained in the file, dependent on the size and complexity of the file.
2021	133	
2022	108	
2023	114	
2024 up to 08/11/2024	49	The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) requires us to comply with a request, unless it would be too expensive to do so. Under s.12 (Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit) of the Act, the cost limit for the Trust is £450 i.e. 18 hours at the rate of £25 per person per hour.
		The cost limit allows us to consider when estimating the cost of complying with a request, time spent determining whether we hold the information requested; identifying, locating and retrieving it and extracting the information from the relevant documents.
		In order for us to answer this question, there are 482 records to review and we estimate that each one would take 10 minutes to review which would take 80 hours. We are therefore unable to process your request as to do so would exceed the cost limit as set out in s.12 of the Act.
		In cases where the time involved in dealing with requests for information would exceed 18 hours, the Trust normally offers individuals the option to pay for the additional work over and above 18 hours, at a subsidised rate of £25 per hour. However, where the resources involved in dealing with a request would have detrimental impact on the Trust's ability to provide its core services, the Trust is entitled not provide this option, and accordingly, refuse the request outright.
		In this case due to the amount of work and resources required to comply with this element of your request, the Trust is of the view that the resources involved in responding to your request, even if you were to pay the subsidised statutory rate of £25.00 per hour, would interfere significantly with the Trust's ability to provide its core services, as such, the Trust considers that it is appropriate to refuse the request outright on the basis of Section 12 of the Act.