

FOI 1578

14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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### **FOI 1578 RESPONSE**

**Question:**

What was the percentage of children who were victims of child sexual exploitation offences who had a 'Child in Need' assessment undertaken, from January 2016 – December 2022?

For the purposes of this Freedom of Information request, child sexual exploitation offences are defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as amended by Section 68 of the Serious Crime Act 2015. This includes Section 47, 48, 49 and 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

'Children in Need' plans are defined by Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989.

**Answer:**

**The SHSCT do not hold a data base of victims of Child Sexual Exploitation offences. All children assessed to be at risk of harm due to Child Sexual Exploitation or any other relevant risk have an Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessment completed.**

**As the information you have requested is not recorded centrally retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive. In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.**