

2 August 2022

Looked After Children – Impact of Ethnicity on the Risk of Going Missing

We are carrying out research to better understand the impact of ethnicity on the risk of going missing. This is in light of the disproportionate representation of Black people in national missing statistics, and the possibility of increased risk amongst this community and for other people of colour. The ethnicity categories in the tables have been chosen to reflect those used in national statistics provided in the UK Missing Persons Unit data report.

1. How many Looked After Children were there in your area between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the number broken down by ethnicity.

	White	Asian or Asian British	Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups	Other Ethnic Group	Information Not Available
Number of children looked after in your area	955		56	41	68	24

2. How many of those Looked After Children went missing between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the numbers broken down by ethnicity.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust cannot provide this information as the term “Missing” is open to a variance of interpretations and we believe it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information requested. The Trust consider that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the ‘Appropriate Limit’, as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information

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- 3. How many incidents of Looked After Children going missing were there between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the numbers broken down by ethnicity.**

As per Question 2, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust cannot provide this information as the term “Missing” is open to a variance of interpretations and we believe it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information requested.

- 4. How many of those incidents, broken down by ethnicity, had a:**
- **Sexual Exploitation marker**
 - **Mental health marker**
 - **Criminal Exploitation marker**
 - **Trafficking marker**

As above, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust cannot provide this information as the term “Missing” is open to a variance of interpretations and we believe it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information.

- 5. How many children in total (not just LAC) in your area went missing between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the numbers broken down by ethnicity.**

As above, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust cannot provide this information as the term “Missing” is open to a variance of interpretations and we believe it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information.

- 6. How many incidents of children (not just LAC) going missing were there between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the numbers broken down by ethnicity.**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust cannot provide this information as the term “Missing” is open to a variance of interpretations and we believe it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information.

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7. How many of those incidents, broken down by ethnicity, had a:
- *Sexual Exploitation marker*
 - *Mental health marker*
 - *Criminal Exploitation marker*
 - *Trafficking marker*

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust cannot provide this information as the term “Missing“ is open to a variance of interpretations and we believe it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve the information.