Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/37305

14 October 2026

Placements Involving Adults Convicted of Sexual Offences

Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
For the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025:

1. **How many children were assessed, placed or approved to live in foster care, kinship care, special guardianship, connected persons or family and friends arrangements where a proposed carer, or another adult in the household:**

   a. **was subject to notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and / or**

      <5.

   b. **had a conviction for a sexual offence.**

      <5.

2. **How many of these arrangements were approved?**

   <5

   Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make people personally identifiable. Disclosure of this information would contravene the principles of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

3. **Does the Council maintain a central record of such cases?**

   There is no central record held of such cases in Belfast Trust.

   In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that Belfast Trust does not hold the information requested.

4. **Please provide any policy, procedure or guidance relating to such placements.**

   There are a number of policies used to manage such cases:

Child Protection Procedures: www.safeguardingni.org
Click the link and follow tab 'Access to the latest procedures online'

Kinship Minimum Standards: www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-kinship-care-standards-amended-jan-2019.pdf

PPANI: Operation | PPANI

5. Does the Council operate a prohibition, presumption against, or case-by-case assessment process in relation to such placements?

The Trust considers each placement on a case-by-case basis. There is no blanket prohibition or presumption against such placements. Each case is individually assessed, and any associated risk management plan must be agreed through a multi-agency process involving Social Services, the PSNI, and relevant Public Protection arrangements.