

13 April 2023

Child Sexual Exploitation

We would like information on 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 Sexual Offences Act 2003: Paying for sexual services of a child;**
- **Section 48 Sexual Offences Act 2003: Causing or inciting [sexual exploitation of a child];**
- **Section 49 Sexual Offences Act 2003: Controlling a child [in relation to sexual exploitation];**
- **Section 50 Sexual Offences Act 2003: Arranging or facilitating [sexual exploitation of a child].**
- **‘Children in Need’ plans are defined by Section 17 of the Children’s Act 1989.**

We are looking to find out:

- **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.**

The information requested is not held by Belfast Trust.

The legislation referred to does not apply within the Northern Ireland Jurisdiction

Belfast Trust does not hold a database 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.