

27 June 2023

Threats to Life Concerning Children under the Age of 18

Please see three requests below regarding threats to life concerning children under the age of 18.

- 1. Could you please advise on how many 'joint protocol' referrals were made by PSNI (e.g. central referring unit) to BHSC with regard to threats to life for children under 18 over the previous 3 years?**

Our electronic system does not collate information pertaining to referrals from social services to other agencies, including the PSNI. Therefore, to answer this question would require a manual trawl of all open cases over the past 3 years, which would require in excess of the allocated 18 hours.

The Trust considers 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.

- 2. Could you please advise on how many referrals have been made to PSNI (e.g. central referring unit) with regard to threats to life for children under 18 over the previous 3 years?**

As per question 1, our electronic system does not collate information pertaining to referrals from social services to other agencies, including the PSNI. Therefore, this would require a manual trawl of all open cases over the past 3 years which would be in excess of the allocated 18 hours.

- 3. Could you advise on how many 'threats to life risk assessment and safety planning meetings' have been facilitated for children under the age of 18 over the previous 3 years?**

Again, our electronic system does not collate information pertaining to the number of threats to life risk assessment and safety planning meetings. Therefore, this would require a manual trawl of all open cases over the past 3 years, which would be in excess of the allocated 18 hours.