



29 August 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1330

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Early Intervention and Children in Need**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 5 August 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

For questions 2 and 3 please provide data for the following time periods:

- **1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021**
- **1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022**
- **1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023**
- **1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**
- **1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025**

And for the following age groups:

- **All children**
- **5-9 years**
- **10-15 years**
- **16 years and over**

If no breakdown by age is available, please provide an overarching figure for all children. If no complete data is available for any question, please provide incomplete data.

Q1. Does your Trust have a process to refer children to early intervention services when their case is closed after a UNOCINI assessment? (Yes or No)

If yes please give details.

A1. Yes, the Trust has a process to refer children to early intervention services. Social Workers undertaking a UNOCINI assessment are required to consider whether the child and family's identified needs can be met by early intervention services rather than requiring a statutory social work service. If it is assessed that an early intervention approach would be appropriate, Social Workers will make onward referral to such services, including the Trust Family Support Hub.

Q2a. For each of the periods and age groups as stated above how many children were subject to a UNOCINI assessment?

A2a. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Age Category	01/04/20 – 31/03/21	01/04/21 – 31/03/22	01/04/22 – 31/03/23	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	01/04/24 – 31/03/25
All Children	1716	1729	1468	1955	1641
5 to 9 Years	515	511	404	592	511
10 to 15 Years	565	613	507	652	543
16 Years and Over	202	202	187	241	215

Q2b. For how many children was the case closed following the UNOCINI assessment?

A2b. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Age Category	01/04/20 – 31/03/21	01/04/21 – 31/03/22	01/04/22 – 31/03/23	01/04/23 – 31/03/24	01/04/24 – 31/03/25
All Children	259	355	320	541	583
5 – 9 Years	69	102	81	138	175
10 – 15 Years	87	122	115	200	200
16 Years and Over	41	56	58	67	67

Q2c. How many of the children whose case was closed after assessment were subsequently re-referred for assessment within 12 months of their initial referral?

Q2d. How many of the children whose case was closed after the UNOCINI assessment were referred to early help/early intervention services?

Q2e. How many of the children that had been referred on to early help/early intervention services following the closure of their UNOCINI case were re-referred for another UNOCINI assessment within 12 months?

Q3. For each of the periods and age groups as stated above how many children in total received an early help/early intervention assessment in your Trust (referred from any source)?

A. In response to questions 2c, 2d, 2e and 3 the information requested is not collected or held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 2c, 2d, 2e and 3.