

27 February 2017

Our Ref: RFI 19401

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Statistical Data – Child Abuse Cases**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 18 January 2017.

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

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

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

**L McAree (Miss)
Head of Information Governance &
Directorate Support**

- Q1. *How many child abuse cases, commonly considered but not solely under the UNOCINI (Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland) reporting system are currently under investigation by all Social Work departments within each of the health trusts. A simple number of cases per Health Trust broken down by file age of under 3, 6, 12 and 24 months since original reporting incident.*
- A1. Please see information provided in Table 1 below. This gives the data relating to September 2016 and some trend analysis which you may find useful. Unfortunately the Trust does not use the same age bands as outlined in your request.
- Q2. *How many child abuse cases, commonly considered but not solely under the UNOCINI (Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland) system have been referred to the Public Prosecution service in the last 5 years.*
- A2. The Trust does not hold the information requested. Please note that Social Services would not be making referrals to the Public Prosecution Service, Northern Ireland (PPS), this information would be held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).
- Q3. *Considering the results of point 2 above, can we get a breakdown of the number of cases involving and subsequent convictions 3 involving care staff in:- a) a day nursery b) childminder c) public sector or charity funded childcare facility*
- A3. The Trust does not hold the information requested. Please note that Social Services would not be making referrals to the Public Prosecution Service, Northern Ireland (PPS), this information would be held by the PSNI.

Table 1 – Statistical Data – Child Abuse Cases

DSF - Child Protection Report (Quarterly)																																																									
Title of Report					Time Period					Source of Data																																															
Activity Report					Quarter Ended 30 Sept 2016					South Eastern Trust																																															
Child Protection Referrals by Source																																																									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Police</td><td>59</td><td>30.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>School/EWO</td><td>1</td><td>0.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Voluntary Organisation</td><td>3</td><td>1.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>GP</td><td>1</td><td>0.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Social Services</td><td>76</td><td>39.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Community Nursing</td><td>2</td><td>1.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Relative</td><td>7</td><td>3.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Neighbour/Friend</td><td>0</td><td>0.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Hospital</td><td>10</td><td>5.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Self</td><td>3</td><td>1.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Anonymous</td><td>12</td><td>6.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>19</td><td>9.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>193</td><td>100.0%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Source	Number	%	Police	59	30.6%	School/EWO	1	0.5%	Voluntary Organisation	3	1.6%	GP	1	0.5%	Social Services	76	39.4%	Community Nursing	2	1.0%	Relative	7	3.6%	Neighbour/Friend	0	0.0%	Hospital	10	5.2%	Self	3	1.6%	Anonymous	12	6.2%	Other	19	9.8%	Total	193	100.0%								<p>Key Messages:</p> <p>39% of referrals were from Social Services</p> <p>31% came from the Police</p>					
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Trend of Child Protection Referrals																																																									
Year	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Jun-16	Sep-16																																					
Referrals	529	498	583	584	533	581	524	1022	1511	1713	1470	1163	1240	1255	285	262	224	245	252	193																																					