

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2324/557  
**From:** Press/Media  
**Date:** 11 January 2024  
**Subject:** FGM in England and Wales

Please provide the following for the last five years, from Jan 1 2019 until December 31 2023.

Please break each of the following down by year (i.e. January 1 2023-December 31 2023; January 1 2022- December 31 2022, etc), and only include each case once (i.e. not the number of occasions one individual attempts to access services):

Q1 How many cases or suspected cases of FGM have been identified?

A1 Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved. However, the total for all years was eight.

Q2 How many of these cases were identified of children under 18?

A2 As per A1 - Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist children's hospital.

Q3 Of the cases identified in children under 18, how many cases were referred to the police?

A3 Eight

Q4 Of all the cases recorded, how many cases were referred to the police?

A4 As per A3 - Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist children's hospital.

Q5 Of the cases identified, how many individuals requested reconstructive surgery via the NHS? Please include the type of reconstructive surgery

A5 Zero

Q6 How many of these individuals underwent reconstructive surgery via the NHS? Please include the type of reconstructive surgery.

A6 Zero

Q7 Where this data is recorded, please provide the number of individuals who underwent reconstructive surgery out of the NHS.

A7 Zero

Q8 How many of the people identified as victims of, or likely victims of, FGM were referred to psychological or mental health support services?

A8 As per A1

Q9 How many people were referred to specialist FGM support clinics?

A9 Zero

The Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the "physical or mental health or condition" of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.