

Background

We hugely welcomed the Government's introduction of the Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act in 2021, which makes it a criminal offence to make arrangements, book an appointment or administer botulinum toxin or fillers to anyone under 18.

Unfortunately, as a recent investigation by The City of Wolverhampton Council has shown, businesses are still offering consultations to children and are not requesting ID. This exposes those aged under 18 to unnecessary risk of serious complications such as infection, while also potentially perpetuating poor body image and placing undue pressure on those who do not need these treatments.

It is our understanding that in the 2022-2023 financial year, under the DHSC guidance, the Government determined that it would pay grants totalling £1,456,699 to local authorities across England to support them with expenditure lawfully incurred as a result of the Act.

Request

We are therefore requesting freedom of information on:

1. How many out of the 152 local authorities awarded grants have conducted investigations into the illegal treatment of under 18s with botulinum toxin and dermal filler procedures.
2. How much of the grants each of the 152 local authorities have spent carrying out the investigations.

Response

1. One investigation has been conducted following an allegation of underage treatment.
2. It is not possible to state a figure for the amount of the grant received spent on investigations. The grant received was absorbed into the Trading Standards budget. The authority directed time and resources preparing guidance on the new regulations with information distributed to all identified relevant traders in the borough.