

REQUEST	16201
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This request concerns characteristics that may be described as any of the following: Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII); Munchausen’s syndrome by proxy; parental ‘over-medicalisation’ of their child; or ‘perplexing presentations’ with regards to the child’s health. In the following questions, these descriptions will be referred to as “the described characteristics”. Where questions ask for numerical figures regarding the described characteristics, all four descriptions should be counted collectively (rather than split four ways).

1. Of the child protection plans that started in January 2024, did any involve concerns over the described characteristics?
2. If the answer to question 1 is ‘yes’, how many involved concerns over the described characteristics?

With regard to questions 1 and 2, one option for locating the information is for the council to perform a free text search of the child protection plans to find any reference to one of the described characteristics. There is no expectation that the council should trawl through all the other documentation that may have been generated during child protection proceedings, beyond the child protection plan document itself.

Please note that if the DPA exemption is applied (or partly applied) to question 2, that does not mean it should be applied to question 1.

3. Of the care orders (excluding interim care orders) that the council was granted in January 2024, did any involve concerns over the described characteristics?
4. If the answer to question 3 is ‘yes’, how many involved concerns over the described characteristics?

Please note that if the DPA exemption is applied (or partly applied) to question 4, that does not mean it should be applied to question 3.

With regard to questions 3 and 4, one option for locating the information is for the council to perform a free text search of the applications for care orders to find any reference to one of the described characteristics.

5. Please provide the council’s current policy on Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII), including definitions, warning signs, care/escalation pathways, and thresholds for intervention

If any individual question would trigger the section 12 cost limit, please mark that question as ‘information not held’ and process the remainder of the request. If the statistical information requested for questions 2 and 4 cannot be sourced within the section 12 cost limit, the information for questions 1 and 3 may be retrievable regardless, because they are yes/no questions rather than requests for specific numbers – the council’s child protection team may know whether there were any such cases.

Please note that I am specifically *not* asking the council to spend time responding to this request right up to the cost limit, and this is not implied by the above paragraph.

RESPONSE

1. 0
2. n/a
3. 0
4. n/a
5. We use the Greater Manchester procedure:

[5.9.4 Fabricated or Induced Illness \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://www.proceduresonline.com/5.9.4-fabricated-or-induced-illness)