



Freedom of Information Request FOI1358

Request:

Re: Request for information on children accused of witchcraft and being possessed by evil spirits and their siblings. I am a Social Work PhD student at the University of Sussex and I am researching the abuse of children accused of witchcraft and being possessed by evil spirits and their siblings. I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (1998). Please could you tell me the number of cases referred to the Police recorded where a child was accused of witchcraft or possessed by an evil spirit for the financial years 2017-18 and 2081-19. For each financial year please also provide the following information.

1. How many accused were accused of being a witch or possessed by an evil spirit?
2. How many siblings did each of these children who were accused have?
3. The gender, ethnicity and age at the time of referral for each accused child.
4. The gender, ethnicity and age at the time of referral of each non- accused sibling.
5. The religion of the family.
6. Who accused the child(ren) of being possessed e.g. mother, father, faith leader?
7. What type of abuse did each accused child experience (physical, sexual, emotional or neglect)?
8. For each accused and non-accused child, whether they were removed from their parent/carer's care by the local authority.
9. For each accused and non-accused sibling, whether they were made subject of a child protection plan.

Submitted on 17/06/19.

Response:

Re: Request for information on children accused of witchcraft and being possessed by evil spirits and their siblings. I am a Social Work PhD student at the University of Sussex and I am researching the abuse of children accused of witchcraft and being possessed by evil spirits and their siblings. I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (1998). Please could you tell me the number of cases referred to the Police recorded where a child was accused of witchcraft or possessed by an evil spirit for the financial years 2017-18 and 2081-19. For each financial year please also provide the following information.

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7. What type of abuse did each accused child experience (physical, sexual, emotional or neglect)?
8. For each accused and non-accused child, whether they were removed from their parent/carer's care by the local authority.
9. For each accused and non-accused sibling, whether they were made subject of a child protection plan.

NIL response