19/06/19 FOI1358



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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- 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.

NIL response

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