

24th February 2020**BY EMAIL**
[REDACTED]**Our Ref: 1196**

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 19th February 2020 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to BSO involvement with the Signs of Safety programme and specifically the information as outlined below:

- 1. The number of current open cases BSO are involved in in each Trust area which falls under the Signs of Safety programme.**
- 2. The stage at which these cases are currently at including pre-proceedings and post issue of proceedings.**
- 3. Which court tier the latter cases are being dealt with.**

The BSO Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) has advised that whilst some Social Workers will expressly state in their reports that the Signs of Safety methodology was used, this practice is not consistent and the methodology which was used may not be outlined. The DLS has also advised that the DLS do not differentiate or classify between the different approaches.

DLS active involvement at the pre proceedings is now exceptional and DLS have therefore advised that they do not hold any records about the vast majority of pre-proceedings work.

DLS therefore does not hold the information requested.



I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

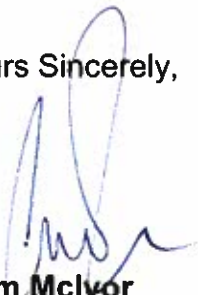
If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liam McIlvor', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Liam McIlvor
Chief Executive