



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

25 November 2020

Dear

ATISN 14496 Female Genital Mutilation Statistics – Final Response

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 29 October 2020.

You asked for:

1. The Female Genital Mutilation statistics for Wales in areas for the last five years along with the age groups of those harmed.
2. The number of prosecutions of Female Genital Mutilation cases in Wales ever.
3. What strategies are in play to reduce / eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and the timescales for these.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed

1. Please can you furnish me with the FGM Statistics for Wales in Areas for the last five years along with the age groups of those harmed?

Response:

Wales wide figures on FGM identified during antenatal checks from health boards in Wales were collated by Public Health Wales. We were sent figures for the four years shown below.

2016/17 - 172

2017/18 - 271

2018/19 - 235

2019/20 - 209

The Welsh Government was not provided with information about age groups. Figures are provided at a Wales-only level to minimise the risk of disclosing individuals.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



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2. Please can you provide me with the number of prosecutions of FGM cases in Wales ever?

Response:

There have been no prosecutions of FGM cases in Wales. This matter is not devolved to Wales. Please note civil and criminal legislation on FGM for England, Wales and Northern Ireland is contained in the [Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#)

3. Please can you advise what strategies are in play to reduce/eliminate this horrendous butchery and provide timescales?

Response

The following strategy documents are available

The purpose of the **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015** is to prevent gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence; protect victims of such abuse and violence; and to support those affected by such abuse and violence. Gender-based violence includes female genital mutilation (FGM):

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/3/contents/enacted>

The **National Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence deliver the purposes of the Act** includes a commitment to challenging attitudes which underpin harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and honour based violence. This will be achieved by working with and supporting specialist BAME violence against women services in Wales to improve community responses to survivors of violence and abuse:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/national-strategy-2016-to-2021.pdf>

The Welsh Government promotes the duty to report FGM through the **Keeping Learners Safe** statutory safeguarding guidance for schools:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/keeping-learners-safe-the-role-of-local-authorities-governing-bodies-and-proprietors-of-independent-schools-under-the-education-act.pdf>

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) will be a statutory element of the **new curriculum for learners aged 3 – 16**, and statutory guidance will be published in 2021 as to what should be included. The refined Curriculum for Wales framework, was published in January 2020, and detail was provided to reflect how RSE should be embedded across the curriculum in future. <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/designing-your-curriculum/cross-cutting-themes-for-designing-your-curriculum/>

The Welsh Government provided funding for **The Wales Safeguarding Procedures** (published on behalf of Safeguarding Boards in Wales) in 2019. This promotes consistent evidence-based safeguarding practice across Wales. An '**All Wales Practice Guide** on safeguarding children from harmful practices related to tradition, culture, religion or superstition' has been published in conjunction with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. This includes advice on safeguarding children from FGM.:

<https://www.safeguarding.wales/chi/c6/c6.p2.html>

The Welsh Government requires that anyone whose client group is made up of those affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, has access to appropriate training, holds appropriate qualifications and participates in continuous professional development.

'**Understanding Female Genital Mutilation**' is recommended training as part of the VAWDASV specialist syllabus: <http://agored.cymru/Units-and-Qualifications/Unit/CDL558>

Welsh Government jointly chairs the **All Wales Honour-based Abuse Leadership Group** with Bawso and the Crown Prosecution Service Cymru. The aim of the Group is to provide strategic direction for the delivery of tackling honour-based abuse in Wales.

Other members of the group include Welsh Government representatives (Health, Education, Safeguarding Children and Adults), police representatives, Public Health Wales, Welsh Local Health Boards, Welsh Local Government Association, the third sector and the National Advisers for Violence against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. Please note policing is not devolved to Wales.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process

Yours sincerely