

Freedom of Information Request

Identifying the population of deaf looked after children & young people, and deaf care leavers.

Summary of request: This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please get in touch if you wish to discuss or clarify any of the information being sought. The information supplied will be used for an undergraduate dissertation and also shared with the National Deaf Children's Society.

Please note the following in completing the questionnaire:

- By 'looked after' we are following the definition in [Article 25 of the Children \(NI\) Order 1995](#).
- By 'Care leavers' we are following the definition in [Article 34A, 34B, 34D of the Children \(NI\) Order 1995](#).
- By 'deaf' we mean any level of hearing loss, and regardless of communication approach. This means where trust data systems may identify a looked after child or care leaver as 'hearing impairment', these children and young people should be included with the data being requested here.
- Some deaf children may not have deafness/hearing impairments as their primary disability. We still wish to identify these children & young people within this request.
- Where children and young people are recorded as having a sensory impairment as in [national statistical data returns](#), further details will need to be sought to confirm whether the child or young person has a hearing impairment and is therefore relevant to this survey.

Section A: Looked After deaf children and young people

1. How many Looked after children and young people during the year were recorded as having a disability of deafness/hearing impairment in each of the last three years?

	Number of deaf children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	0
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	0
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	0

2. Of the numbers shown in the table above, how many children and young people were known to communicate through British Sign Language (BSL) or Irish Sign Language (ISL)?

	Number deaf of children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	

3. What were the main types of placement for looked after deaf children? Children may be recorded more than once if they had multiple placements over the year.

Relevant Year period	Numbers of deaf children and young people by placement type					
	Any type of 'respite' short break placement *	Foster placement to Adopt	Foster placement long term	Foster with a relative or friend	Children's home	Residential school or college
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)						

*respite short breaks subject under Children Northern Ireland Order 1995 or Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978

4. Are Looked after deaf children and young people offered deaf-specific support or provision? (for example, access to deaf role models, Deaf Advocacy, BSL/ISL translated materials, BSL/ISL interpreters, etc.)

- Yes
 No

If yes, please outline what that is:

5. Is there any additional information you wish to add in relation to Section A?

Section B: Deaf Care leavers

6. How many relevant care leavers were recorded as having a disability of deafness/hearing impairment in each of the last three year periods? (Numbers will equate to individual children and young people)

	Number of deaf children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	0
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	0
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	0

7. Of the numbers shown in the table above, how many children and young people were known to communicate through British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language?

	Number of deaf children and young people
01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year 1)	
01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year 2)	
01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year 3)	

8. What were the main destinations of deaf young people at the time they left care?

	In education	In training or employment	Not in education, employment or training	Not known
No of deaf young care leavers who left care between 01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (year one)				
No of deaf young care leavers who left care between 01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (year two)				
No of deaf young care leavers who left care between 01 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (year three)				

9. Are deaf care leavers offered deaf-specific support or provision? (for example, access to deaf role models, Deaf Advocacy, BSL/ISL translated materials, BSL/ISL interpreters, etc.)

- Yes
 No

10. If yes, please outline what that is:

11. Is there any additional information you wish to add in relation to Section B?

Section C: Foster carers

12. Do you provide any of the following training and support to foster carers of deaf children?

	Yes	No
Deaf awareness training		No but would if required
Opportunities to learn British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language		No but would if required

13. Please specify below if any other training or support on deafness is provided to foster carers of deaf children and young people.

14. Do you keep a record of foster carers who knowledge of experience of supporting deaf children and young people?

- Yes
- No

15. Do you keep a record of foster carers who can communicate through British Sign Language or Irish Sign Language?

- Yes
- No

16. Have any steps been taken to recruit deaf adults to become foster carers or to promote fostering as an option among the Deaf community?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please outline below how this has been done.

17. Is there any additional information you wish to add in relation to Section C?

Thank you. This is the end of the survey.