



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 001182  
Date            30 May 2017

### ***Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) or Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy (MSP).***

#### **Request:**

`Fabricated or Induced Illness` (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer, usually the child's biological mother, exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.

FII is also sometimes known as 'Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy' (MSP) not to be confused with Munchausen's syndrome, where a person pretends to be ill or causes illness or injury to themselves).

- 1) I am applying under the FOI Act for the five years individually from 2012-2017 for the number of times your Social Services department or your legal department has instigated child protection/ safeguarding procedures because of concerns about "Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) or Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy (MSP)?"
- 2) Can you also tell us whether the allegation was made by an educational professional, health professional, social services professional or non professional?
- 3) Can you also tell us whether at any stage during the process the child involved had a diagnosis of ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) or CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome)?

If it is not possible in the time available to answer question number 3 then please supply the data for question 1 and 2.

If it is not possible in the time available to answer question 2, then please answer question 1 and 3.

If it is not possible in the time available to answer questions 2 and 3 then please supply the answers to question 1.

Ideally we want a breakdown of each of the years but, if that is not possible, then please give figures for the whole time period.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

I recognise you may not hold this information separately, however we expect the numbers to be small so you may well hold this knowledge either within your social services team or legal teams or be able to isolate cases using a word search facility on Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII); Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy (MSP); Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

Following reasonable enquiries, it has been established that the Council does not hold the above requested information.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act"), that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".