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**Derry City & Strabane**  
District Council

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Comhairle  
**Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSratha Báin**

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**Derry Cittie & Stràbane**  
Destrict Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 976

06 December 2016

Ms  
Daily Express

Email: @Express.co.uk

Dear Ms

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request CSE Teams**

I refer to your FOI request as above. Please note that Derry City and Strabane District Council was formed under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 effective 1 April 2015 following a Review of Public Administration and replaces the former councils of Derry City Council and Strabane District Council. Requests made to the legacy councils since 1 April 2015 are being handled by Derry City and Strabane District Council and duplicate requests made to the legacy councils are being treated as one request.

Please see response below:

#### **1. Do you have a Child Sexual Exploitation team at the council? (It may work under another name)**

**Response:** Derry City and Strabane District Council are currently in the process of forming a new Safeguarding Working Group which will have responsibility for promoting the topic of Child Sexual Exploitation as part of the implementation of Council's Safeguarding Policy. Council also has 4 Designated Safeguarding Officers who keep up to date with information in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation and ensure recommended practices are incorporated into Council's relevant policies and procedures.

#### **Derry**

C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN

#### **Strabane**

C/o Council Offices  
47 Derry Road  
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BT82 8DY

+44 (0) 2871 253 253  
info@derrystrabane.com  
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council  
@dcsdcouncil

2. **When was this team formed?**

**Response:** Please see the response above. It is estimated that the Safeguarding Working Group will be operational again by early 2017.

3. **Has this team been expanded in any way - be it budget or staff, or scope in the last two years?**

**Response:** Prior to the Review of Public Administration (RPA) outlined above the area was served by Derry City Council and Strabane District Council respectively. As a result of RPA the previous safeguarding working group has been replaced and will increase in size in order to reflect the increase in the Council size.

4. **Can you explain how, if it has expanded?**

**Response:** Please see the response above.

1a. **Please write the name under which it operates**

**Response:** Safeguarding Working Group and Designated Safeguarding Officers

2a. **How many staff were in the team in 2013 if one was operational**

**Response:** 5 members (operational in Strabane District Council only)

2b. **How many staff are in the team in 2016?**

**Response:** TBC-estimated at 10-15 people.

**If you would like to add any statement, please feel free to do so.**

- Derry City and Strabane District Council follow best practice guidance in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- CSE is now specifically referenced in the new Safeguarding Policy for Derry City and Strabane District Council.
- A Child Sexual Exploitation information session has also been provided to relevant Council staff in September 2015 by an NSPCC Child Sexual Exploitation expert.
- Child Sexual Exploitation awareness has been incorporated into Council provided Safeguarding training for staff since 2015.
- Council's Designated Safeguarding Officers also attend the Local Government Association's Safeguarding Network meetings where information and guidance in relation to the signs of CSE and appropriate actions in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation have been discussed.

If you are dissatisfied with our response you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

**Derry**

C/o Council Offices  
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Derry  
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John Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council  
98 Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7NN  
Tel 028 71253253 or email [john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com](mailto:john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com)

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer**



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