

## 35829 Child Protection

The number of concerns raised with the local authority/social work about the welfare or safety of a child/young person in the last three years.

Could you please break this down by year. And if possible, provide reasons for concerns being raised, for example (but not limited to) neglect. I understand that linking reasons to individual numbers/cases might not be possible so a list of the most common concerns raised would be acceptable.

The local authority social work department receives concerns from a range of sources, including members of the public and other professional services such as the Police. In Edinburgh these are routed through our single point of contact – Social Care Direct. These may be regarding any number of issues and are not defined within the recording system in terms of whether these relate to primarily 'welfare' or 'safety'. In addition, at the point of concerns being received, these are not coded according to reason for concern. As such it is not possible to answer this element of your query.

The figures below are the total numbers of Child Welfare Concerns received by Social Care Direct in each reporting period. These are taken from the Edinburgh Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report 2021:

Item	Figures for period April to March		
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total number of child welfare concern forms sent to Social Care Direct	10,754	10,139	10,959

The number of times action was taken by the local authority/social work following concerns being raised about the welfare/safety of a child/young person in the last three years.

Could you please provide a list of the actions taken.

It is not possible to accurately respond to this question. In accordance with national policy and guidance, such as the 'National Guidance For Child Protection In Scotland 2021' and 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC), action taken in the protection of children and the promotion of their welfare is taken on a multi-agency basis, involving collaboration between a range of services as well as with the involvement of the family. Actions taken can range from emergency protective measures through the Courts, to informal support and sign-posting.

The closest available data, which includes a breakdown by local authority area, can be found in the Scottish Government Children's Social Work statistics which are published at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-2019-20/>

In particular, Table 2.4 and 2.5 within this publication may go some way to answering your question. These relate to the number of child protection investigations and registrations. However it should be noted that the number of children being provided with support and/or monitoring by social work at any one time will be significantly more than the number reported here, as many children for whom concerns have been raised may be supported on a voluntary basis, without the need for Child Protection Registration, or have become Looked After (for which data can also be found in the above-noted publication).