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**Quality Assurance Policies & Procedures**  
**SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY**  
**CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION**

**Appendix N**

**Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.

Female genital mutilation (FGM), sometimes known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting', is illegal in the UK.

It's also illegal to take abroad a British national or permanent resident for FGM, or to help someone trying to do this.

You can get up to 14 years in prison for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place.

**If there's immediate danger**

[Contact the police](#) if you or someone you know is in immediate danger of FGM.

You should also contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office if you know a British national who's already been taken abroad.

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Telephone: 020 7008 1500

From overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 1500

[Find out about call charges](#)

If you're abroad you can contact the [nearest British embassy, commission or consulate](#).

**If you or someone you know is at risk**

Contact the NSPCC anonymously if you're worried that a girl or young woman is at risk or is a victim of FGM.

**NSPCC FGM Helpline**

Email: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

Telephone: 0800 028 3550

From overseas: +44 (0)800 028 3550

[Find out about call charges](#)

Home Office October 2016: Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation; procedural information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/female-genital-mutilation>