

# FGM Assessment Tool for Social Workers

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## **Do I have to pay to use the Online Assessment Tool?**

No, there is no charge to use the FGM Assessment Tool.

## **Can any social worker use the Online FGM Assessment?**

Yes. The Assessment Tool is freely available to use by all social workers. No login or sign up to our website is required.

## **Can I fill in the Online FGM Assessment with the family present?**

We recommend that you read the ['FGM good practice guidance for social workers'](#) and the [question guide](#) before visiting the family and familiarise yourself with the information you want to gather. When visiting the family we recommend you talk with the family openly, using an interpreter if needed and following your home visit you can complete the Online FGM Assessment with the information you have gathered. FGM can be a very sensitive topic and it is important that you spend time building a rapport with children and families, in order to forge a trusting and honest relationship, where you can also learn more about cultural backgrounds and family traditions

## **Can I save my answers on the Online Assessment and come back to them later?**

Your answers will be saved as long as you do not close the window in which the assessment is on. We recommend you complete the assessment then print or upload your results to the child's electronic case file. You can complete the tool again in the future and compare the results from the first assessment.

## **What do I do if I disagree with the result of the Online FGM Assessment Tool?**

All social workers should use their professional judgement when using any part of the FGM Assessment Tool. The result of the Online Assessment is a guide only, based on the information provided to the online questions.

Ultimately the decision on risk needs to be properly assessed and analysed by the social worker, using their professional judgment. We would also recommend the social worker talks to their line manager about the results and any identified FGM risks that are identified.

## How confidential is the information I enter in the online FGM assessment? Is this data stored by the National FGM Centre?

The information you add to the tool is completely confidential and only you can see it and download the information added to it. The data is stored within your browser and not sent to any other server. This data needs to be stored so a result and PDF report can be generated. The data is deleted when you close your internet browser or click 'erase and start again' on the results page. We use google analytics to track general information including how many people access the tool, what pages they may get to (start, results etc), how long people spend on the assessment but we never see or access any information you input or the results you get.

## Can the tool be used by non-social work professionals?

The tool is designed to be used by qualified social workers. We do not recommend it is used by non-social work professionals. We recommend health professionals use "[Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\) Guidance for Health Staff](#)" and all other statutory and voluntary sector professionals should consult the "[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation](#)". If professionals are looking to refer a girl to children's social care, they can use our [Good Referral Guide](#) to ensure that they are capturing all the relevant information needed, to relay any concerns they may have about the risk of FGM to a girl

## Has the FGM Assessment Tool been Piloted/tested by Social workers?

Yes, the tool was tested by social workers in our Pilot Local authorities in the south east of England (in what were deemed low FGM prevalent Local authorities) and within High FGM prevalent local authorities in London. The feedback was it enhanced social work practice and there was overall feedback was positive about the tool.

The feedback included:

*"I'm not a specialist in FGM, though I read about it. To go in and do a risk assessment without this, I wouldn't have known what to ask. It helped a lot to push the conversation in the right direction to find out what I need." (Social Worker)*

## Has the FGM Assessment Tool been independently evaluated?

Yes, the Tool was independently evaluated by York Consulting in 2016. You can read the evaluation [here](#). The feedback was positive and the recommendations have been implemented into the Tool.

## **Can I distribute the FGM Assessment tool to Social workers within my Local Authority?**

We recommend Social Workers using the tool, should attend our FGM Assessment Tool training. This is to ensure that Social Workers are clear on how to evaluate the information they gather and feel confident to work with families around FGM. 100% of Social Workers who have attended the training, would recommend it to a colleague. Our training is CPD Accredited, and the only training licensed to train professionals on using the FGM Assessment Tool. Please email us at [info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk) for more information on training or head to [www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/training](http://www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/training).

## **How do I give feedback on the FGM Assessment Tool?**

We always want to hear what people think about the tool and their experience. You can feedback via our survey that you can access [here](#) or you can email us at [info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk). Please let us know what you like and what you would like to improve.

## **Can I download a copy of the results of the Online Assessment to take to meetings or upload to a child's records?**

Yes, on the results page there is a button that allows you to download a PDF copy of the results, including the questions and any extra detail you have given. You can print and/or save this document.