



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Secretary
Gauteng Legislature
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RESPONSE TO LEGISLATURE QUESTIONS NO 5.SD076

With regards to statutory rape, could the MEC please indicate:

(i) How is every potential case of statutory rape involving girls under the age of 16 recorded and investigated?

Response

The Department of Social Development, as well as its Designated Child Protection Organisation (which are funded by the Department), receives cases involving statutory rape for the provision of psychosocial support interventions (individual therapy, trauma counselling, debriefing, family therapy, and crisis intervention). The Department and its partners do not investigate such matters, as this remains the core mandate of law enforcement. However, the Department and its partners work closely with investigating officers to provide victim support throughout the investigation and court processes.

(ii) What is the total number of Form 22s completed in the last 5 years? (These are mandatory forms to report evidence of sexual abuse of children.)

Response

The Department has statistics on Form 22s completed by the Department and its Designated Child Protection Organisation for the last four years (including the first quarter of 2025/2026). Previously, the coordination and management of Form 22s were not clearly outlined, resulting in some forms being submitted directly to the National Department of Social Development, while others were submitted to the Provincial or Regional Offices. The process has since been streamlined over the past four years to improve the management of Form 22s.

Financial Year	Number of Forms 22
2022/2023	5432
2023/2024	3585
2024/2025	3634
2025/2026 (1 st Q – April – June 2025)	1330

Furthermore, the National Department of Social Development has introduced a web-based system for capturing Form 22s. The transition from the manual system to the web-based system has commenced in Gauteng, although we remain heavily reliant on the manual completion of forms at this stage.

(iii) How are healthcare and social workers trained and equipped to implement the provisions of the Children's Act in these cases?

Response

For social workers and health care workers employed within the Department, statutory management training is ongoing and remains a priority in the Department's capacity-building and training plans each

financial year. Additionally, the Department has various development and support forums in place, which further empower social work and health care managers and supervisors on statutory management matters.

(iv) What proportion of cases are referred to the police for criminal investigation?

Response

In all cases of alleged abuse, the caregiver, parent, or guardian is legally required to open a case at the nearest police station, which will initiate a criminal investigation by SAPS. The South African Police Service maintains statistics on cases opened for criminal investigation.

Regards,



Ms N F Mazibuko

Member of Executive Committee

Date: 21/04/2025