



12 December 2024

**Our Ref:** FOI 319

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Training and Qualifications Provided to Social  
Workers**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 29 October 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to the question raised has been provided by the Children's Services and Social Work Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital ([informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net)) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. *Can I do a freedom of information request on training and qualifications provided to our social workers and specifically the children's court officers in relation to "parental alienation?"***

A1. The Trust Court Children's Officers availed of two days of regional training for Court Children's Officers delivered by the Director of the Family Separation Clinic in England.

The training referenced that the term parental alienation is loosely used as there are many conflicting views about the use of the term. The training delivered to the Court Children's Officers covered the whole spectrum regarding why a child/children might resist contact with a parent with whom they previously had a relationship with. The Court Children's Officers did not receive a formal qualification upon completion of the 2 days training.