



27 February 2024

Our Ref: FOI 324

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Adults and Children's Learning Disability**

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 1 November 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services and Social Care & Adult Services and Prison Healthcare 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) 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1. How many children and adults (specify each separately) are registered in the Trust with a learning disability?

A1a. Adults

1595 adults with a Learning Disability are currently known to the Trust Community Learning Disability Teams.

A1b. Children

There are currently 796 children known to the Children's Disability service, 562 children have a learning disability as their major disability.

Q2. From the overall LD total noted above, how many children and adults (specify each separately) are also registered in the Trust with autism?

A2a. Adults

The information requested is not held by the Trust, the Adult Learning Disability Service does not hold a central register of adults diagnosed with autism. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records. This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A2b. Children

Across the Children's Disability Teams there are currently 81 children registered within the Trust with Autism.

Q3. How many children and adults (specify each separately) are registered in the Trust with autism, who are not accounted for under the learning disability numbers?

A3a. Adults

The information requested is not held by the Trust, the Adult Learning Disability Service does not hold a central register of adults diagnosed with autism. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 2a and 3a.

A3b. Children

Of the 81 children referred to in A2b, there are 18 children who are in the process of having an Initial Family Support assessment undertaken and 65 children currently remain on the waiting list for an Initial Family Support assessment to be completed.

Q4. How many children are entitled to respite care within the Trust?

A4. In the Children's Disability Service there are currently 78 children and young people assessed as needing this service.

Q5. How many children respite units are there in the Trust, where are they located and how many available beds are there in each unit for children?

A5. Within the Children's Disability Service there are 2 respite services, Lindsay House, Lisburn providing 4 beds, however Lindsay House is currently not providing an overnight short break provision, and Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle providing 2 beds.

Q6. What services do each of these respite units provide for the children?

A6. Within the Children's Disability Service Lindsay House and Greenhill provide overnight short breaks. From August 2023 Lindsay House has been fully repurposed to provide full time care placements. The plan is to return Lindsay House to its original statement of purpose as soon as possible.

Q7. What is the current occupancy rates of each unit in the Trust?

A7. There is currently no occupancy at Lindsay House. Greenhill provides 2 beds per night either 2 or 3 nights per week depending on staffing availability.

Q8. What is the current waiting list? How long does it take to get a child a bed when the need is identified?

A8. There are currently 65 children on the waiting list. The Children's Disability Service cannot quantify how long it takes to get a bed if it is determined a child or young person meets the criteria for this service as allocation is often determined by the level of complexity.

Q9. Does the Trust own the respite units or do they rent from the private sector? If rented, typically what are the length of leases and rent paid per annum?

A9. The Trust own Lindsay House and rent the Greenhill facility of the YMCA but run the short breaks in terms of staffing, equipping and managing the home. The Greenhill facility is leased annually from April to March. The annual lease cost is £52,943.

Q10. How much does it cost the Trust per child for respite care on a daily basis assuming overnight care, and also the overall annual sum?

A10. For the year 2023/2024, the cost per child per day for respite care is £2,306. The overall annual sum for 2023/2024 was £1,127,629.

Q11. How many staff are required per child? What band of staff is required to work within respite care and what is the typical annual salary for each of the bands noted?

A11. In the Children's Disability Service the staffing ratio is determined by the complexity of the child or young person coming in for the overnight stay. It is generally 1 child to 1 staff member, at night it is less as the children and young people are mostly sleep.

The banding of staff are band 7 Team Lead and Deputy Team Lead, band 6 Social Workers and band 6 Nurses, generally 2 each, they are key workers to the children and young people. Band 5 senior support workers, who lead the shift and band 3 Social care workers who are generally on the floor

Please visit the below website for the pay bands within the Trust.

<https://jobs.hscni.net/Information/8/pay-bands-in-health-social-care>

Q12. What services are provided to the families with children with learning disabilities?

A12. The services offered are determined by the assessment of need, where a service has been identified is not currently available they will go on a waiting list for the service.

Services provided:

- Flexicare early intervention support for pre-school children in process or just diagnosed.
- Positive Futures day short breaks in Lisburn and Bangor only.
- Cedar transitions project and Cedar day short breaks, across all three areas.
- LynC Outreach
- Overnight short break fostering provision (early stages of development).
- Social Work input and Social care support.
- Community Nursing Learning Disability provision.
- Children's Home provision for full time care in Beechfield and Glenmore.
- Overnight short care provision in Lindsay House and Greenhill YMCA.