



14 October 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1391

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Adoptions**

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 5 September 2025. 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 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

Please provide answers to the following questions broken down into age groups: (If the information is not recorded in these age groups, please provide the information per age year, for example: under 1 years; 2 years; 3 years etc)

- ***Under 1***
- ***1-4 years***
- ***5-9 years***
- ***10-15 years***
- ***16 years +***

Please provide the information by month for the last full 5 years. (If the data cannot be provided by month please preferable provide it by calendar year or if not, by financial year.)

Q1. How many Article 21s (to provide accommodation under the Children (NI) Order 1995) have been registered for a child leaving adoption in your Health and Social Care Trust area? (Either into care, a kinship placement or family/friend placement).

A1. In the last 5 years, there have been <5 Article 21, 16+ young persons registered for a child leaving adoption within the Trust area, in May 2022.

Please note where numbers are given as <5, in line with Trust policy, the data is aggregated to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

Q2. How many Article 66s (Duty to Investigate under Children (NI) Order 1995) have been registered in relation to an adopted child in your Health and Social Care Trust area?

A2. There have been no Articles 66s registered in relation to an adopted child in the Trust area, within the last 5 years.

Q3. How many Article 50 care orders (under the Children (NI) Order 1995) have been registered in relation to an adopted child in your Health and Social Care Trust area? (Care orders where an adoptive placement has broken down).

A3. There have been no Article 50 care orders registered in relation to an adopted child in the Trust area, within the last 5 years.