

11 January 2017

Our Ref: RFI 19099

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Helicobacter Pylori Infections**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 2 December 2016 and is now in a position to provide a response to questions 1 - 4 which are attached in Appendix A.

A response to Q5 - 7 will be released to you as soon as possible.

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

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

**L McAree (Miss)
Head of Information Governance &
Directorate Support**

I am interested to know about the national provision of healthcare for the helicobacter pylori stomach infection.

I have contacted all of the NHS trusts in England, Wales and Scotland on this matter already. I realise that the structure in Northern Ireland is somewhat different and I have found your contact details as the person to talk to in connection with Freedom of Information Requests for your hospitals. I may be mistaken in this and so if I need to talk to someone else, I would appreciate if you could forward this request, or advise me as to the person I should seek.

The details I need to know for items 1 and 2, are probably public record, but I do not see them in the list of available information. I also realise that the data in items 3 to 7 may not be collected at trust level and that the data may be incomplete. However, it may form part of data sets published elsewhere by the Government based on statistical returns from the individual departments. If so I would appreciate if you, or your colleagues, could refer me to that data, however complete it may be.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information act, I should like to know:

Q1. Your policy for the identification and screening for Helicobacter Pylori infections

A1. The Trust does not have a specific policy for this however it follows a number of national guidelines and recommendations including NICE Dyspepsia guideline CG184 , GUT publication "The Management of HP Infection" (2012) 61 p646-664 and a Public Health England guide for the Test and treat for Helicobacter pylori (HP) in dyspepsia for primary care.

Q2. Your procedure for GP referral for patients to gastroenterology departments. In particular:

A2. The Trust does not have a specific policy or procedure for this. The Trust and GPs would follow Regional/National guidelines.

Q2.1. Are the GPs required to carry out or request any Helicobacter Pylori screening procedures at Out Patient Departments in advance of a referral.

A2.1 Please see response to A2 above.

Q2.2. Does the GP give your gastroenterology departments a referral letter with implicit permissions to treat the patient without further reference to him/her?

A2.2 Please see response to A2 above.

- Q3. *The total number of gastroscopic investigations carried out over the most recent 12 month period for which you have data*
- A3. Within the last twelve months there have been 5744 gastroscopies.
- Q4. *The number Campylobacter-like organism (CLO) tests carried out during gastroscopy in the same period. These may also be referred to as Rapid Urease Tests (RUT)*
- A4. Within the last twelve months there have been 1976 CLO tests.