

4 January 2017

Our Ref: RFI 19064

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Allegations of Abuse made against homecare workers**

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 30 November 2016.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Directorate of Nursing, Primary Care & Older People's Services, Adult Disability Services and Adult Mental Health Services and is attached in Appendix A.

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**

My request relates to allegations of abuse made against homecare workers who are employed by your trust or work for a company subcontracted by the trust.

For clarity, these are workers who go into other people's homes to provide personal care services to them, sometimes known as domiciliary carers. I request the following:

- Q1. *For each of the past three financial years, 13/14, 14/15 and 15/16 what was the total number of allegations of abuse made against home care workers? For each disclosure I would like the following additional information:*
- * the age of the victim within 10-year time frames so as to preserve anonymity, i.e. age 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100-109.*
 - *The nature of the alleged abuse. Was it sexual abuse, physical, psychological, financial or other? If other please state what the alleged abuse was.*
 - *Was the allegation substantiated or unsubstantiated?*
 - *Was disciplinary action taken against the worker? If so, please state the action taken.*
 - *Were the police called?*

My strong preference is for you to provide a full three-year disclosure but if you consider it will breach the FOI act's time and cost limits I would accept just one financial year – 15/16.

- A1. The Trust has gathered information from the three Directorates who provide Domiciliary Home Care Workers and their response is provided below.

Nursing, Primary Care & Older People's Services

The information below is for the financial year 2015/16 only. There were 58 allegations of abuse made and of the 58 allegations, 50 were unsubstantiated, 6 were substantiated and 2 are still under investigation. There were 29 referred to the PSNI. Please see Table 1 and table 2 below.

In 38 of the allegations disciplinary action was not taken. Disciplinary action was taken in 18 of the allegations. Please see Table 3 for types of action taken.

Table 1 – Type of Alleged abuse

Type	Number
Sexual	2
Physical	9
Psychological	7
Financial	29
Other	11
Total:	58

Table 2 – Age ranges of service users involved

Age Range	Number
60-69	3
70-79	10
80-89	30
90-99	13
100-109	2

Table 3 – Types of disciplinary action taken

Type of Disciplinary action taken	Number
Dismissed	7
Further Training	7
Disciplinary Sanction	4

Adult Disability Services

The information provided in Table 4 has been provided by Adult Disability Services and is in relation to the financial year 2015/16 only.

Table 4 – Adult Disability Services, allegations of abuse

Age of Victim	Nature of Abuse	Substantiated (S) Unsubstantiated (U)	Disciplinary action taken	Police called?
20-29	Emotional	U	No	No
50-59	Financial	U	No	Yes
50-59	Financial	U	No	Yes
60-65	Financial	S	No	Yes
50-59	Neglect	S	Yes	Yes
60-65	Neglect	U	No	No
30-39	Physical	U	No	Yes
50-59	Physical	U	No	Yes
60-69	Physical	U	No	Yes
60-65	Physical	U	No	No
60-65	Physical	U	No	No
40-49	Physical	U	No	No
20-29	Physical	U	No	No
30-39	Sexual	S	Yes	Yes

Adult Mental Health Services

The Mental Health Directorate has had no investigations into Domiciliary Home Care Workers over the past 3 years.