

21 March 2017

Our Ref: RFI 19669

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Support Services for families recently bereaved by suicide**

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 16 February 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by Adult Services and Prison Healthcare Directorate 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**

The South Eastern Trust currently provide support services for families recently bereaved by suicide. The Trust is made aware of the contact details of recently bereaved families (specifically next of kin) through the SD1 referral process from the police.

Please provide information relating to the following:

1. *Most recent Trust/PHA guidelines for offering support to families recently bereaved by suicide.*
- A1. Please find attached the Trust's policy document entitled 'Procedure Supporting Families Bereaved Through Suicide'.
2. *The total number of SD1 forms received by South Eastern Trust in the years 2014 and 2015.*
- A2. Please see Table 1 and Table 2 below which include the total number of SD1 forms received, broken down by gender and whether the next of kin did, or did not request support.

Table 1 – Total number of SD1 forms received by the Trust in 2014

	Totals	Support requested	No Support requested
Female	5	3	2
Male	39	27	12
Total	44	30	14

Table 2 – Total number of SD1 forms received by the Trust in 2015

	Totals	Support requested	No Support requested
Female	9	2	7
Male	29	20	9
Total	38	22	16

3. *The total number of SD1 forms received by South Eastern Trust indicating a request for support from next of kin in the years 2014 and 2015.*
- A3. Please see Table 1 and Table 2 above.
4. *A copy of the current policy/guidelines relating to equality monitoring of SD1 referrals for bereavement support following a suicide*
- A4. Please find attached the Trust's policy document entitled 'Procedure SD1 Notification & Postvention Support Guidance for SEHSC, PSNI & New Life Counselling'.

5. *The number of males as next of kin requesting support through the SD1 form in 2015 or most recent year available*
- A5. Please see Table 1 and Table 2 above.
6. *The number of females as next of kin requesting support through the SD1 in 2015 or most recent year available.*
- A6. Please see Table 1 and Table 2 above.
7. *Details of the policy outlining the recommended length of time for next of kins to be contacted through this process, and any monitoring data collected against it in 2015 or most recent year available*
- A7. The provider of the Bereaved by Suicide Service is responsible for contacting the families directly. The Trust Provider is New Life Counselling. Each response is tailored to individual family need and request. Their contract is monitored via the Public Health Agency (PHA). The PHA would hold more detailed information on this.