

18 August 2017

**Our Ref:** RFI 20905

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Use of External Cladding**

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 21 July 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates 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

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

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Appendix A

Q1 *How many hospital blocks have been renovated or built within your Trust in the past 20 years that now have external cladding?*

- A1. Within the Trust, 9 hospital blocks have been renovated/built during the past 20 years with cladding.
- Q2 *Have these buildings been assessed following Grenfell to ensure the same or similar cladding has not been used?*
- A2. The Trust has surveyed its buildings in line with the Department of Health (DOH) guidance.
- Q3 *How many Trust blocks have been tested (if any)?*
- A3. In line with the DOH guidance, samples of cladding from 4 Trust buildings have been sent to the Building Research Establishment for fire testing.
- Q4 *How many have failed (if any)?*
- A4. There has been 1 failed sample on a building where the top storey is less than 18m above ground level.
- Q5. *Does the Trust have any plans to remove cladding on any buildings, if so which buildings?*
- A5. The building with the failed sample is low-rise (top storey significantly less than 18m above ground level) and the installed external wall cladding would be in compliance with the Building Regulations. However, in line with the DOH guidance a risk assessment in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service will be completed.
- Q6. *Following this fire how much has been spent assessing and testing such buildings?*
- A6. The in-house costs are currently around £5,000.
- Q7. *Are any tests currently outstanding?*
- A7. The Trust is currently awaiting the results from 3 fire tests (See answer 3 above).