

31 August 2017

Our Ref: RFI 21053

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Metastatic Breast Cancer**

I am writing to confirm that the Trust has now completed its search for the information, which you requested on 7 August 2017. I wish to advise you that some of the information cannot be released for the reasons given in below:

In respect of Questions 2i, ii, I can confirm that the information requested is not centrally held.

In order to retrieve this information a manual search of patient files would be required. This exercise would take 2-3 weeks to complete.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 under Section 12(1), so it will not be possible to make this information available to you.

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 2i, ii.

However, a response to Question 1 has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics Directorates 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

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Appendix A

Q1. *Can you provide me with a copy of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts published policy document effective as at 3rd August 2017 on Individual Funding Requests.*

A1. Please find attached Trust Policy entitled Consideration of Individual Funding Requests (IFR) for Drug Treatment. This policy is still active in August 2017, however the thresholds noted in the policy of £1,000 has been amended in line with Health and Social Care Board's guidance to £50,000.

In 2017 the Department of Health published a consultation regarding Individual Funding Requests and the Trust awaits the outcome and revised guidance. The consultation document and associated information is available online via the web address provided below:-

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/individual-funding-request-ifr>