

8 September 2017

Our Ref: RFI 21118

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Delayed Discharges**

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 10 August 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services 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**

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

This concerns the so-called problem of inpatient 'bed-blocking' – delayed discharges even though the patient is ready to leave hospital

I would like to know:

Q1. *How many patients are currently awaiting discharge from your hospitals even though they are medically fit to leave hospital?*

A1. As at 12.45pm on 21st August 2017 there were 63 patients awaiting discharge.

Q2. *The length of time broken down for each patient currently awaiting discharge from your hospitals even though they are medically fit to leave hospital?*

A2. Please see Table 1 below which relates to the 63 patients identified in response to Q1.

Table 1

Time band	Total
<24hrs	18
24 - 48hrs	2
48 - 168hrs	21
>7 days	22
Grand Total	63

Q3. *What reasons are given for the delayed discharge of each patient – i.e. waiting for home care package to become available?*

A3. Please see Table 2 below which breaks down the reason for the delayed discharge for the 63 patients identified in response to Q1.

Table 2

Delayed Discharge Description	Total
COMPLEX 5 - NO DOMICILIARY PACKAGE AVAILABLE	19
COMPLEX 17 - NO SIGNIFICANT DELAY LESS THAN 48HRS ONLY	8
SIMPLE 5 - AWAITING TERTIARY CARE	5
COMPLEX 7 - NO NURSING HOME BED AVAILABLE	4
SIMPLE 1 - PHARMACY AWAITED	4
SIMPLE 6 - AWAITING SECONDARY CARE BED	4
COMPLEX 10 - PATIENT/FAMILY RESISTANCE	3
SIMPLE 10 - NO SIGNIFICANT DELAY LESS THAN 2 HOURS ONLY	3
COMPLEX 15 - PRINCIPAL REASON FOR DELAY UNKNOWN	2
COMPLEX 18 - NO SUITABLE STEP DOWN BED AVAILABLE	2
SIMPLE 2 - DISCHARGE SUMMARY AWAITED	2
SIMPLE 5c - AWAITING TERTIARY CARE THER ANGIO OFF SITE	2
SIMPLE 7 - SIMPLE COMMUNITY PACKAGE	2
COMPLEX 11 - NURSING/RESIDENTIAL HOME RESISTANCE	1
COMPLEX 2 - CARE PLANNING	1
SIMPLE 9 - OTHER SIMPLE DELAY REASON	1
Grand Total	63

Q4. *What is the longest period a patient has waited in hospitals for discharge - between 2010 – 2017 (Jan to Jan if possible)*

A4. Please see Table 3 below which shows the longest stay recorded in hours for each year between 2010 and to August 2017.

Table 3

Year	Longest Delay (Hrs)
2010	4439
2011	2182
2012	1518
2013	7419
2014	2069
2015	2335
2016	4390
2017	4393