

Information Governance

8 November 2017

**Our Ref:** RFI 21684

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Mental Health issues Faced by Social Work Staff  
for the Period 2012 - 2017**

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 13 October 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources & Corporate Affairs 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**

Enc

*This request concerns mental health issues faced by social work staff at your authority.*

1) *Please state the number of:*

- a) *Qualified social workers*
- b) *All social work staff*

*at your authority who took long term sick leave, defined as being on leave for 28 or more calendar days (i.e., 4 working weeks) for any reason in each of the following financial years:*

- i) *2012/13*
- ii) *2013/14*
- iii) *2014/15*
- iv) *2015/16*
- v) *2016/17*
- vi) *2017/18 to 01/09/17*

A1. Please see response provided in Table 1 below:-

**Table 1**

	<b>STAFF WITH LONG TERM SICKNESS (ALL REASONS)</b>	
	<b>QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS</b>	<b>ALL SOCIAL WORK STAFF</b>
2012/2013	49	163
2013/2014	116	369
2014/2015	139	429
2015/2016	138	451
2016/2017	128	429
2017/31 AUG 2017	77	259

NB:

- The Trust transitioned to the new Human Resources Information System in 2012/2013 therefore the figures provided may not reflect the full data for that time period.
- Please note the figures provided relate to financial years

2) Please state the number of

- a) Qualified social workers
- b) All social work staff

at local authority who took long term sick leave, defined as being on leave for 28 or more calendar days (i.e., 4 working weeks) due to mental health issues, in each of the following financial years:

- i) 2012/13
- ii) 2013/14
- iii) 2014/15
- iv) 2015/16
- v) 2016/17
- vi) 2017/18 to 01/09/17

A2. Please see response provided in Table 2 below:-

**Table 2**

	<b>STAFF WITH LONG TERM SICKNESS (MENTAL HEALTH REASONS ONLY)</b>	
	<b>QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS</b>	<b>ALL SOCIAL WORK STAFF</b>
2012/2013	17	55
2013/2014	44	135
2014/2015	60	150
2015/2016	62	151
2016/2017	61	152
2017/31 AUG 2017	35	108

NB:

- The Trust transitioned to the new Human Resources Information System in 2012/2013 therefore the figures provided may not reflect the full data for that time period.
- Please note the figures provided relate to financial years

3) Please state the number of permanent

- a) Qualified social workers
- b) All social work staff

at your authority who left your employment for any reason in each of the following financial years.

- i) 2012/13
- ii) 2013/14
- iii) 2014/15
- iv) 2015/16
- v) 2016/17
- vi) 2017/18 to 01/09/17

A3. Please see response provided in Table 3 below:-

**Table 3**

	<b>PERMANENT LEAVERS (ALL REASONS)</b>	
	<b>QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS</b>	<b>ALL SOCIAL WORK STAFF</b>
2012/2013	24	87
2013/2014	47	108
2014/2015	21	94
2015/2016	42	123
2016/2017	47	137
2017/31 AUG 2017	26	64

NB:

- The Trust transitioned to the new Human Resources Information System in 2012/2013 therefore the figures provided may not reflect the full data for that time period.
- Please note the figures provided relate to financial years

4) *Please state the number of permanent*

- a) Qualified social workers*
- b) All social work staff*

*at your authority who left your employment due to mental health issues in each of the following financial years.*

- i) 2012/13*
- ii) 2013/14*
- iii) 2014/15*
- iv) 2015/16*
- v) 2016/17*
- vi) 2017/18 to 01/09/17*

A4. The term 'mental health' is not a code used by the Trust when recording a person's reason for leaving and therefore is not held by the Trust.