

Information Governance

6 December 2017

**Our Ref:** RFI 21978

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Referral Policies for Patients Who are Obese  
and/or Smoke**

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 14 November 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

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

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**Q1. Have referral policies changed for elective procedures for patients who are obese (with a BMI of 30 or above)?**

A1. There are no policies held in relation to patients with a BMI of 30 or above. All patients are assessed on their clinical appropriateness and need.

**Q2. Have referral policies changed for elective procedures for patients who smoke?**

A2. There are no policies held for patients who smoke. All patients are assessed on their clinical appropriateness and need.

**Q3. Are you considering changing referral policies for elective procedures for patients who are obese?**

A3. Not applicable.

**Q4. Are you considering changing referral policies for elective procedures for patients who smoke?**

A4. Not applicable.

**Q5. If yes to any of the above what has the change been or what change are you considering?**

A5. Not applicable.

**Q6. What is the current average wait from referral to treatment for elective hip replacements for patients who are obese or smoke?**

**Q7. What is the current average wait from referral to treatment for elective hip replacements for patients who are not obese and do not smoke?**

A6&7. The Trust does not carry out hip replacement surgery.