

27 December 2017

Our Ref: RFI 22194

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Use of a Taxi Service and the Cost of this Use**

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 8 December 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources and 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,

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

Q1. Please can you provide information from 2012 up to now on the number of times the South Eastern Trust has employed the use of a taxi service and the cost of this use.

A1. The Trust does not record the amount of journeys undertaken on behalf of the organisation. Please see Table 1 below which shows the breakdown of yearly taxi expenditure.

Table 1

2017/18**	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14*	2012/13*	2011/12*
£1,045,543	£1,167,379	£1,061,817	£1,031,340	£91,456	£21,959	£22,259

*information not fully available for 2011 – 2014 as system changed.

**year to date figures.

Q2. Can you tell me for each year (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) how many times a taxi was used and the overall cost for each year.

A2. Please see response to Q1 above.

Q3. Can you also provide a breakdown of the reason for use (patient travel for operation etc) and detail of where the journeys were to and the nature of them

A3. The Trust does not record the reasons for use, however the Taxi services must only be used on official Trust business when no other mode of transport is available, i.e. public transport, Trust transport or private motor car and includes patients, clients, staff and journeys undertaken for the carrying of bloods, laboratory specimens or other goods.

The Trust does not record the detail of the journeys destination or the nature of the booking.