

12 September 2018

Our Ref: RFI 24729

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to support provided to patients with a diagnosis of
secondary breast cancer**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 15 August 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

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

Victoria Smith
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. Do patients with secondary breast cancer have a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), used to plan their care, conducted at the point of diagnosis (of their secondary breast cancer) and/or as their treatment changes?

- **Yes, at the point of diagnosis only**
- **Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes**
- **No**
- **Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible)**

If yes, do the HNAs cover the following areas?

- **Emotional concerns and needs**
- **Physical concerns and needs**
- **Information needs**
- **Consideration of palliative care needs**

A1. No, a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) is conducted at the point of diagnosis of their secondary breast cancer. Patients do have a HNA carried out with a primary diagnosis of breast cancer and on completion of their adjuvant treatment.

Q2. How many people with secondary breast cancer are currently under the care of your Health and Social Care Trust?

A2. The information requested is not centrally held. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

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.

Q3. Do all patients with secondary breast cancer under the care of your Health and Social Care Trust have access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of secondary breast cancer?

A3. The Breast Cancer Nurse's (BCNs) in the Trust are the patient's keyworker from primary diagnosis of breast cancer. Patients are provided with the contact details of the BCN and can contact them at any time if required throughout their patient journey.

Q4. If yes, do these nurses:

- **provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only?**
- **provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients?**

A4. Care is provided to the secondary breast cancer patients if they are contacted by the patient.

Q5. If yes, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):

- **CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only**
- **CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients**

A5. There are currently 3.4 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) BCN's. There is no specific BCN for secondary breast cancer patients.

Q6. If there are CNS posts within your Health and Social Care Trust that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients, please tell us if they:

- **work in a combined role (where the care of both primary and secondary breast cancer patients is part of their formal job description)**
- **work across both areas but their formal job description only covers primary breast cancer patients**

A6. There is no specific BCN for secondary breast cancer patients.

Q7. At diagnosis and/or during the time they are under the care of your Health Board, are patients with secondary breast cancer provided with the following information and/or referred to the following services?

- local and national secondary breast cancer support services (yes/no)**
- specialist services for financial and employment advice (yes/no)**
- information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer (yes/no)**
- information about support available for family members (yes/no)**

e. local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed (yes/no)

f. support and information on planning end-of-life care (yes/no)

A7. Patients who contact the BCN are provided with information on secondary breast cancer and are referred onwards to appropriate services as required.

a. Yes.

b. Yes.

c. Yes.

d. Yes.

e. Yes.

f. Yes.

Q8. Do patients with secondary breast cancer receive a Treatment Summary* at the end of each significant phase of treatment?

A8. No.

Q9. Does your Health and Social Care Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event* suitable for patients with secondary breast cancer?

By suitable, we mean that it is adapted to be relevant to the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer. For example:

- **focuses on living with cancer, rather than adapting after finishing treatment**
- **may be more than one session, rather than a single event**
- **may include discussions on specific topics such as palliative care**

A9. No. Health and well-being events are provided for patients who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and have completed their treatment. This cohort may include those with secondary breast cancer but no event is provided exclusively for patients with secondary breast cancer.