

12 June 2018

Our Ref: RFI 23472

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – re: Same sex adoptive parents

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 14 May 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services & Social Work 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(a). I wish to know how many same-sex couples (e.g. two men, or two women) have applied to become adoptive parents?

A1(a). There are 6 same-sex couples that have applied to become adoptive parents. 1 is approved with a child placed but order not yet granted, 5 are at different stages of checks or assessment.

Q1(b). Of these, how many have adopted a child/children?

A1(b). Nil.

Q2(a). I wish to know how many different-sex (e.g. one man and one woman) have applied to become adoptive parents?

A2(a). There are 87 different-sex couples that have applied to become adoptive parents. 3 withdrew following approval, 14 are awaiting placements, 10 have placements and are awaiting adoption orders being granted and the remainder are at various stages in the adoption assessment.

Q2(b). Of these, how many have adopted a child/children?

A2(b). Of these, 39 have adopted a child/children.