

10 July 2018

Our Ref: RFI 23947

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Pauper Burials and DNA Samples**

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 20 June 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorate and Hospitals 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

**Catherine Treanor
Information Governance Assistant**

PART A

In each of the past 3 years:

Q1. *How many pauper burials (public health burials) has your Trust arranged?*

A1. The Trust has arranged five funerals – but only 1 had any cost implication for the Trust. Payments were received from the estates of the deceased to cover costs for the other funerals.

Q2. *What was the total cost in each of the three years?*

A2. In 2015/16 there was a cost of £66.42. There has been no further cost to the Trust as all payments were reimbursed by the estates of the deceased.

PART B

Q3. *Does your Trust now take DNA samples from new born babies / children?*

Q4. *If so, how many DNA samples are currently held by your Trust / HSC?*

Q5. *If applicable, how much was spent in the past year in securing this sensitive data?*

A3-5. The Trust does not take DNA samples from new born babies/children.