

20 July 2018

Our Ref: RFI 23824

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Drug Abuse and Addiction Clinics**

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 7 June 2018.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services and Prison Healthcare 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**

Q1. How much money has the South Eastern Trust spent on promoting preventative work around drug abuse in the past 5 years? (1/1/13 - present day)

A1. The Trust is not commissioned to undertake any promotion/preventative work in relation to drug misuse and therefore has no financial resource set against this.

Q2. What form has that expenditure taken – ie, posters, leaflets, advertising, campaigns, social media etc.

A2. There has been no dedicated funding set aside for promoting preventative work for drug misuse.

Q3. How many people have been admitted to hospitals in the trusts area due to suspected drug abuse in the past 5 years? (1/1/13 – present day)

A3. There were 893 people admitted to hospitals within the Trust catchment area from 1 January 2013 – 5 July 2018 with a suspected/confirmed primary substance misuse issue.

Q4. Has there been an increase in the amount of people needing treatment for drug abuse in the past five years? Could I have a breakdown of those figures?

A4. The number of people requiring treatment for substance misuse has remained largely static for statutory community services. However, the figures detailed in Table 1 below do not reflect the stepped care model of treatment where referrals into statutory services (Step 3) are appropriately stepped down to voluntary services (Step 2) without the need to be assessed within statutory services.

Table 1

Year	Referrals
2013 - 2014	1859
2014 - 2015	1703
2015 - 2016	1944
2016 - 2017	1677
2017 - 2018	1674
Total	8857

Q5. How many people have attended addiction clinics in the same period run by the Trust?

A5. There were 2891 individual assessments carried out within addiction clinics from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2018.

Q6. Could I have a breakdown of age and gender of people using the addiction clinics for each of the past five years?

A6. The breakdown of age and gender is detailed in Table 2 below and is a composite breakdown of people using addiction services from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2018.

Table 2

Age Range	Male	Female
18 - 24	213	94
25 - 34	475	185
35 - 44	390	239
45 – 54	362	254
55 - 64	189	146
65+	58	48
Total	1687	966

Please note discrepancy of 238 between figure in A5 and totals in Table 2 above could be accounted for by re-referrals to the service over the last 5 years.