

Information Governance

28 November 2016

**Our Ref:** RFI 18654

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information in relation to Eating Disorders and Self Harm and Suicide**

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 12 October 2016.

A response to each of the questions raised 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

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

## Eating Disorder related requests:

- Q1. *The number of specialists trained to deal with eating disorders within the Trust broken down by profession i.e Doctor, Nurse, Dietician etc.*
- A1. Two members of staff, (1 Occupational Therapist and 1 Dietician) have undertaken specialist eating disorder training. In addition a number of staff within the Trust have undertaken further training in assessing and treating patients with an eating disorder. The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Belfast Trust) is responsible for the provision of the specialist eating disorder service to the Trust.
- Q2. *The number of patients currently waiting for treatment for an eating disorders within the Trust and the length of time between referral and first assessment from shortest to longest waiting period.*
- A2. There are currently 10 patients on the dietetic service waiting list. Targets are currently being achieved. The longest wait for an appointment is 9 weeks. This figure does not include patients referred to the specialist team at the Belfast Trust as we do not retain their data.
- Q3. *The number of patients who have had 2 or more referrals to eating disorder services in the last 5 years within the health trust (this includes referrals of a patient to access treatment in a neighbouring trust or outside NI)*
- A3. This information is not centrally recorded by the Trust.
- Q4. *The number of patients in total who were sent outside NI for treatment for their eating disorder in the last 5 years, broken down by year.*
- A4. Please see response provided in Table 1 below:

**Table 1**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Patients</b>
2012	< 5
2013	< 5
2014	< 5
2015	< 5
2016	< 5

- Q5. *The number of people diagnosed with an eating disorder who are not in receipt of the specialised eating disorder services available in the trust.*
- A5. In order to retrieve this information a manual search of all case files is required as the information is not collated on a central information system.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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.

Q6. *The number of attendances at A+E in the trust due to complications from eating disorders.*

A6. I can confirm that the information requested above is not collated/held on a central information system, as it is not required for any Trust business purpose.

Q7. *The number of patients who have been admitted to a general hospital due to complications from their eating disorder in the trust.*

A7. Within the last 12 months there have been 8 patients who have been admitted to a general hospital due to complications from their eating disorder.

Q8. *The number of patients who have received inpatient treatment in a psychiatric facility due to their eating disorder.*

A8. Within the last 12 months there have been 10 individuals who have received inpatient mental health treatment.

Q9. *The number of specialist eating disorder beds available in the trust.*

A9. Within the Trust patients requiring inpatient treatment for an eating disorder are admitted to a general adult mental health ward.

#### **Self-Harm and Suicide related requests:**

Q10. *The number of incidents classified as self-harm in mental health facilities, care facilities and hospitals operated by the trust in the previous five years*

A10. Due to changes in the reporting system used by the Trust, data is only available from 2012/2013. During this period there were 441 self-harm incidents reported across all Trust mental health services.

Q11. *The number of incidents classified as an attempted suicide in mental health and hospital facilities operated by the trust in the previous five years*

A11. As outlined in A10, due to changes in the reporting system used by the Trust, data is only available from 2012/2013. During this period there were

113 incidents reported as attempted suicide across all Trust mental health services.

Q12. *The number of deaths in mental health facilities, care facilities and hospital facilities operated by the trust, classified as suicide in the previous five years*

A12. Within the past 5 years, there have been less than 5 deaths within a mental health facility that have been classified as suicide.

Q13. *What training is provided to staff in mental health facilities, care facilities and hospital facilities operated by the trust to identify those displaying suicidal ideations and behaviour?*

A13. All registered staff have undertaken mental health assessment and comprehensive risk assessment training. Significant numbers of staff have also completed STORM (self-harm mitigation training), while unregistered staff complete ASSIST (Applied suicide intervention skills) training. In recent years, all graduate nurses from Queens University, Belfast have also completed ASSIST training as part of their pre-registration nurse training.

Q14. *What percentage of staff in those facilities have completed the training?*

A14. Within these facilities 100% of registered staff have undertaken mental health assessment and comprehensive risk assessment training.

Data on the uptake of STORM and ASSIST Training is not recorded by the Trust and therefore this information is not available.

Q15. *How much does the training cost?*

A15. There is a Service Level Agreement with the Clinical Education Centre for registered and unregistered nursing staff, for the provision of STORM and ASSIT training.