

15 December 2016

Our Ref: RFI 18993

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Surplus Blood Donations**

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 22 November 2016.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Woman & Acute Child Health Directorate and 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

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

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Q1. *“Over the last five years (or the longest time period possible to comply with FOI cost and time exemptions) please tell me how much blood has been donated to hospitals within your trust catchment area. Please provide the breakdown per hospital with the total calculated on an annual basis. “*

A1. Blood is not donated directly to the hospital blood banks, donors donate at the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion (NIBTS) Service. NIBTS then supply hospital blood banks within Northern Ireland.

Q2. *“Under Freedom of Information legislation can you outline in a statement what hospitals within your trust catchment area do with surplus blood donations? “*

“In addition to this please tell me over the last five years (or the longest time period possible to comply with FOI cost and time exemptions) if your trust has disposed of surplus blood . If so please provide a breakdown per hospital outlining how much blood was disposed of annually. “

A2. The Trust blood bank does not have a surplus supply of blood. The Trust hold pre-agreed levels of blood of differing blood groups based on our hospital size and population statistics for Northern Ireland.

Q3. *“Can you also please tell me over the last five years (or the longest time period possible to comply with FOI cost and time exemptions) if your trust has sold surplus blood . If so please provide a breakdown per hospital outlining how much blood was sold annually, to who and for how much.”*

A3. The Trust blood bank does not sell surplus blood.