

Information Governance

15 December 2016

Our Ref: RFI 19002

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Counselling for Inmates from 1 January 2013 to
present day**

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 24 November 2016.

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

Enc

Q1. *How many prisoners/inmates from NI's adult prisons have received counselling under mental health facilities managed by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust from 1 Jan 2013-present day?*

A1. Counselling is a very generic term and may be open to interpretation. All Mental Health professionals and many of the staff who we contract with (e.g. Start 360) and other voluntary sector organisations will utilise counselling skills and interventions as part of their standard practice. Emotional support needs are responded to by the prison healthcare mental health services through a range of interventions.

The Trust does not commission specific counselling services.

Q2. *How much has been charged to the NI Prison Service by the SEHSCCT for this service? If possible, could I have the figures broken down on a year-by-year basis for the same period?*

A2. The Trust does not charge the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) for any healthcare related service, the Trust is funded directly from the Health & Social Care Board (HSCB) to provide healthcare services within Northern Ireland Prisons.

Q3. *What issues have been most prevalent in being reported in counselling?*

A3. I can confirm that the information requested is not collated/held on a central information system, as it is not required for any Trust business purpose.

Q4. *How many inmates/prisoners have admitted to having suicidal feelings?*

A4. Where a person reports, experiencing suicidal ideation, this is recorded within their individual clinical records.

The information requested above is not collated/held on a central information system, as it is not required for any Trust business purpose.

Q5. *What form of action has been taken for those people?*

A5. Persons who express suicidal ideations are managed by NIPS under their Supporting Prisoner at Risk (SPAR) processes. The SPAR process involves NIPS and Trust prison healthcare staff working collaboratively to support individuals presenting with suicidal ideation. This involves the identification and management of risk and the provision of treatment interventions to meet the needs of the person. The individual circumstances will determine the most appropriate treatment intervention and supports required.