

29 January 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26752

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Cost of Covering Settled Status Applications**

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 4 January 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources & Corporate Affairs 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 –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. 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. *Is your NHS Trust/ Group offering to cover the cost of application fees for staff who apply for Settled Status?*

A1. The Trust will reimburse the £65 fee for staff who applied for Settled Status under the pilot phase of the EU Settlement Scheme which ran until 21 December 2018. A decision has not yet been taken regarding rolling this out to the full scheme, when it launches in March 2019.

Q2. *Is your NHS Trust/ Group also offering to cover the costs of Settled Status applications for the families of members of staff?*

A2. As part of the pilot, the reimbursement of application fees in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme is limited to employees of the Trust.

Q3. *What is the current estimate for the total cost to the NHS Trust/ Group for covering Settled Status application fees?*

A3. Information is still being gathered to determine what costs may be incurred in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Q4. *What is the total amount that the NHS Trust/ Group has budgeted to cover Settled Status application fees?*

A4. There is no defined amount of funding towards EU Settlement Scheme applications. The determination of funding is made by Trusts in conjunction with the Department of Health as part of HSC contingency planning arrangements.