

4 February 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26801

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Patients reported missing from Hospital**

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 8 January 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Human Resources and 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. How many times has someone been reported as having gone missing from a hospital in the Trust area between 1st January 2013 – 31st December 2018? (having discharged themselves without telling hospital staff or otherwise)

A1. Please see Table 1 below which shows the number of people who have gone missing or absconded from a Hospital within the Trust. We are unable to provide the information broken down by Hospital site but have provided it broken down by calendar year.

Table 1

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	205	229	210	196	175	135

Q2. How many times has this led to a successful outcome? I.e. The person having been declared as found.

A2. This information is not held by the Trust.

Q3. What impact does this have on hospital staff or resources?

A3. This information is not held by the Trust.

Q4. What cost has this incurred for the Trust?

A4. This information is not held by the Trust.

Q5. Does discharging yourself without informing the hospital constitute a breach of law?

A5. No.