

19 February 2019

**Our Ref:** RFI 26874

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Child Burns Statistics**

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 14 January 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

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](mailto: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

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**Jane McCormick  
Information Governance Assistant**

**Q1. I would like to know how many children were admitted to your hospitals after suffering burns due to hot drinks being spilt on them for the following years; 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.**

A1. Attendances for burns is broken down in Table 1 below. Please note the figures provided are based on patients aged under 18 who have burns or scalds in their triage text. Therefore this may include burns related to other factors and not just due to hot drinks being spilt on them.

Table 1

Attendances for burns at Trust Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018	
Year	Total
2015	124
2016	118
2017	140
2018	168
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>550</b>

**Q2. I would like the information to be broken down by severity; first degree, second degree and third degree.**

A2. The electronic system used by the Trust does not break down this information in relation to severity of the burn.

**Q3. I would like these breakdowns to describe, if available, how many were minor, treated at A&E and released, how many required further treatment, how many will require treatment for the rest of their lives and how many were fatal.**

A3. The electronic system used by the Trust provides information on what happened to the patient after they left the Emergency Department, for example, if the patient was discharged home, admitted, referred to an Outpatient Clinic or died. The Trust cannot provide information in relation to ongoing treatment to the patient. Table 2 provides a breakdown by departure method.

Table 2

Attendances for burns at Trust Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018 by departure method					
Departure Method Description	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
Allowed Home	61	61	70	93	285
Practice Nurse	3	2	1	2	8
A&E – Today	1	0	1	0	2
Referred to GP	19	17	17	28	81
Re-attend ED or MIU	32	24	33	34	123
Transfer to Other Hospital	6	7	6	4	23
Referred to Outpatient Clinic	2	3	6	3	14
Left Before Treatment	0	4	4	4	12
Referred to Out of Hours	0	0	1	0	1
Died	0	0	0	0	0
Referred to Fracture Clinic	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>550</b>

**Q4. I would also like, if available, the data to be broken down into where the accidents happened, if they occurred in a public place, such as a play area, or in the home.**

A4. Table 3 provides a breakdown of where the accident occurred.

Table 3

Attendances for Burns at Trust Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018 by incident type					
Details of where accident occurred	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
Home Accident	88	87	95	118	388
Educational Establishment	1	0	1	3	5
Other Trauma	7	11	9	5	32
Public Place Accident	10	6	10	15	41
Non Trauma	9	10	19	19	57
Self-Harm	1	0	2	0	3
Work Accident	8	4	3	8	23
Road Traffic Accident	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>550</b>

**Q5. I would also like to know, if available, how much these patients cost the NHS per year. For example how much did child burn treatment cost the NHS in 2015 and so on.**

A5. The electronic system used by the Trust does not provide this information.

**Q6. Further, is it possible to know, on average, how much it costs to admit, treat and provide further medicine and care to a child who suffered third degree burns from a hot drink spill?**

A6. The electronic system used by the Trust does not provide this information.