

14 March 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26881

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Looked After Children**

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 questions 1 -4 has been provided by the Children's Services and Social Work Directorate and is attached in Appendix A. We are continuing to work on the response to Q5 and will forward this as soon as possible. Please note numbers have been masked and this is due to the small numbers within a small geographical area.

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. For each of the last four financial years (including 2017/18), how many looked after children were placed in children's homes within the authority area?**
- a) in total**
 - b) were 'out-of-borough' (i.e. they were moved into a home within the local authority/borough from an alternative local authority)**
 - and c) were recognised as being at risk from CSE?**
- Q2. For each of the last four financial years (including 2017/18), how many missing episodes occurred involving looked after children placed in children's homes within the authority area**
- a) in total**
 - b) Where the children were 'out-of-borough' (i.e. they were moved into a home within the local authority/borough from an alternative local authority)**
 - and c) Where the children were recognised as being at risk from CSE?**
- Q3. In the last financial year (2017/18), how many looked after children went missing from children's homes on 10 or more occasions in a single year?**
- a) In total**
 - b) Where the children were 'out-of-borough'**
 - and c) Where the children were recognised as being at risk from CSE?**
- Q4. For the entirety of the last four financial years (including 2017/18), how many looked after children placed in children's homes within the local authority who went missing were never found (i.e. no agency learned of their whereabouts)?**

A1-4. Please see excel spreadsheet attached.