

4 June 2019

Our Ref: RFI 28637

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to the Disposal of Used X-ray Films**

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 was received on 7 May 2019. A copy of your letter is enclosed for reference.

A response to your questions has been provided by the Hospital Services 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

Jane McCormick
Information Governance Assistant

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Appendix A

Q1. I am looking for information as to what happens to the used x-rays in this country.

- A1. Most of the hospitals and Trusts in the United Kingdom use the digital Picture Archiving Communication Systems (PACS). X-Ray film is no longer used on a regular basis.

The disposal of any stored x-ray film must be undertaken by a recognised records and information management company as each film contains confidential patient data. These companies would be unable to supply you with used x-rays, as these are the property of the NHS Trusts.