

17 July 2019

Our Ref: RFI 29468

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information Requested in Relation to Fast Track Continuing Healthcare**

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 19 June 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Nursing, Primary Care & Older People 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

**Rebecca Kelly
Information Governance Assistant**

Q1–4 What was the average time period in your CCG in days/hours from the point at which a Fast Track CHC application is made to the care package being provided for the financial year 2018/19?

What was the average time period in days/hours from the point at which a Fast Track CHC application is approved to the care package being provided for the financial year 2018/19?

During the financial year 2018/19, how many applications for fast track CHC did the CCG receive?

During the financial year 2018/19, how many applications for fast track CHC were funded?

- A. In Northern Ireland the policy position on Continuing Health Care is significantly different to the English model. Northern Ireland does not have Fast Track CHC and therefore in response to the questions the Trust have received no applications.

At present 'Continuing Healthcare' in Northern Ireland is under consultation being carried out by the Department of Health. The Trust has contributed to this consultation and we await the issue of further guidance from the Department of Health (DoH).

The Trust conducts all multi-disciplinary health and social care assessments in line with the guidance contained in ECCU 1/2010 Care Management, Provision of Services and Charging Guidance. Where an individual's care needs can be met in a residential or nursing home setting the extant charging guidance applies.

Please see below extract from guidance on the DoH Website.

Health and Social Care Assessment of Need in Northern Ireland:

8. *Northern Ireland benefits from a fully integrated system of health and social care, with the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) responsible for commissioning health and social care services for the local population and Health and Social Care Trusts (HSC Trusts) delivering services.*
9. *HSC Trusts are responsible for ensuring that an assessment of need is carried out for individuals in a timely manner and with appropriate multi-disciplinary professional and clinical input as required. Assessment of need should focus on maximising opportunities for individuals to live independently at home, or in as near a domestic environment as possible, for as long as they wish to do so and where it is safe and appropriate.*
10. *Due to Northern Ireland benefitting from a fully integrated system, the assessment process covers both health and social care needs. At present,*

if the outcome of an assessment indicates a primary need for healthcare, then the HSC is responsible for funding the complete package of care in whatever setting. This is what is known as continuing healthcare in the local context. Alternatively a primary need for social care may be identified and where such a need is met in a residential or nursing home setting, legislation requires the Health Social Care Trusts to levy a means-tested charge.

(<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/continuing-healthcare-northern-ireland-introducing-transparent-and-fair-system>)