

24 February 2020

Our Ref: RFI 33323

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Request for Information on care of patients from staff of the same gender
and of the opposite gender**

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 29 January 2020.

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

Q1. The total number of patients who requested they receive personal care from a care assistant or nurse of the same gender

A1. This information is not collated.

Q2. List all Trust settings where patients can refuse personal care from a staff member of the opposite sex

A2. In all Trust settings patients or service users can request their care to be provided by a person of the same sex. We make every effort to meet individual requests especially in situations where intimate personal care is required.

Q3. If a male staff member in the settings of physical disability is providing care to a female patient are they allowed to provide personal care?

A3. Yes, a male staff member can provide personal care, however personal choice of the person receiving care will be respected – if they express the wish to have a female care worker, the Trust will make every effort to provide for this choice.

Q4. If a female staff member in the settings of physical disability is providing care to a male patient are they allowed to provide personal care?

A4. Yes, a female staff member can provide personal care, however personal choice of the person receiving care will be respected – if they express the wish for a male care worker, the Trust will make every effort to provide for this choice.

Q5. All policies in relation to questions 1-4

A5. There are no specific policies in relation to this.