

Information Governance

16 March 2020

Our Ref: RFI 33663

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to referral pathways for patients that present as
problem gamblers**

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 20 February 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare 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

**Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant**

Q1. Does South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have a referral pathway for a patient who presents as a problem gambler?

Q2. If it does, what is the pathway?

A. The Trust are not commissioned or funded to provide services to specifically address/treat individuals with problem gambling. Where problem gambling is a concomitant issue, secondary to a primary substance misuse problem, our staff will provide treatment interventions to address both issues and/or will encourage engagement with more bespoke services such as Gamblers Anonymous.

If individuals are referred to Community Addiction Services with a primary gambling problem, this referral is redirected with the referrer's and individual's consent to bespoke services such as Gamblers Anonymous or through our non-statutory partners such as Dunlewey Addiction Services, who have a bespoke gambling addiction treatment service.

The Trust has no immediate plans to develop a specific service or pathway for the difficulties raised by problem gambling. The development of such a service would need to be commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and /or the Public Health Agency.