

27 July 2020

Our Ref: RFI 33763

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Autism Initiatives**

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 25 February 2020. You will be aware from my previous email that due to the Covid- 19 Pandemic the Information Governance Service was suspended as staff were redeployed. Thank you for your patience and forbearance during the ensuing delay

A response to the question raised has been provided by the Adult Services and 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. I would like to make a freedom of information request under the Freedom of Information Act. The information I am requesting is: Any guidance or policies regarding the use of seclusion/isolation in supported living services and residential units for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism. Any figures, reports, data on the use of seclusion/isolation, year on year from 2014 to 2018 (inclusive), in supported living services and residential units for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism.**
- A1. The Trust does not use seclusion and isolation practices within residential or supported living as the Trust regards these practices as restrictive. Therefore, we are unable to provide the year on year data as requested.