

05 August 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35097

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Funding Arrangements for Patients Having to
Travel and/or Stay Outside the Area for Specialist Treatment**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 10 July 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised 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

**Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Assistant**

Please disclose all policies, guidance, and instructions, including terms, conditions, eligibility, and format/method of payment, held by South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust with regards to:

Q1. Up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel available for patients and escorts of patients receiving Terminations of Pregnancy, both under nationally-directed schemes and any other provisions.

A1. Where appropriate the Trust can provide funding to patients and escorts of patients for travel costs under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme, please see Attachment 1. Hospital Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) – Travel Protocol. If travel is required outside of Northern Ireland for Termination of Pregnancy this is arranged via the Department of Health and Social Care Board.

Q2. Up-front funding for or reimbursement for overnight stays available of patients and escorts of patients receiving Terminations of Pregnancy.

A2. Where appropriate the Trust can provide funding to patients and escorts of patients for overnight stays under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme, please see Attachment 1. Hospital Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) – Travel Protocol. If travel is required outside of Northern Ireland for Termination of Pregnancy this is arranged via the Department of Health and Social Care Board

Q3. Where different to (1) above, up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel available for patients and escorts of patients receiving non-primary care, both under nationally-directed schemes and any other provisions.

A3. Where appropriate the Trust can provide funding to patients and escorts of patients for travel costs under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme, please Attachment 1. Hospital Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) – Travel Protocol. If travel is required outside of Northern Ireland for specialist treatment this is arranged via the Department of Health and Social Care Board.

Q4. Where different to (2) above, up-front funding for or reimbursement of overnight stays available for patients and escorts of patients receiving non-primary care.

A4. Where appropriate the Trust can provide funding to patients and escorts of patients for overnight stays under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme, please see Attachment 1. Hospital Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) – Travel Protocol. If travel is required outside of Northern Ireland for specialist treatment this is arranged via the Department of Health and Social Care Board.

Q5. Further, please disclose the 2020-21 South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust budget for up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel and overnight stays for patients receiving:

- **Terminations of pregnancy; and**
- **Non-primary care**

A5. The Trust does not have a dedicated budget for up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel and overnight stay for patients receiving termination of pregnancy or non-primary care. If appropriate patients can apply for reimbursement of travel costs under the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme, please see Attachment 1.