

03 August 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35201

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to PPE Contracts**

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 27 July 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates 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

This request concerns contracts awarded for PPE directly by your organisation, and the fraud and error related to PPE procured or received by your organisation.

Q1. *Please provide the following information for each PPE contract your organisation has signed directly from February 1st 2020 to date. This would include contracts for body bags, gowns, gloves, coveralls, masks, respirators, hand sanitizer, visors, and face shields, and clinical disposal equipment such as waste bags.*

- ***The total value of each contract.***
- ***The date the contract was signed.***
- ***The name, unique identifier (Companies House number or Dun & Bradstreet number) and address of each supplier for each contract. Please note companies do not have personal information.***
- ***The deliverables agreed in each contract, including the list of items to be supplied, and the volume of each item to be supplied.***
- ***The procurement procedure, ie. OJEU, framework, competition or extreme urgency provision (negotiated procedure without a call for competition).***
- ***Whether the contract has been fulfilled in full as of the date of this request.***

A1. Between 1st February 2020 and 31st July 2020 no contracts were awarded for PPE directly by the Trust. All PPE supplies including body bags, gowns, gloves, coveralls, masks, respirators, hand sanitizer, visors and clinical disposal equipment are procured and supplied on behalf of the Trust by the Procurement and Logistics Service wing of the Business Services Organisation.

Q2. *Please state if any batches of items delivered under these PPE contracts, or national contracts, have failed to meet required product safety or protection standards and those items were rejected. If this has occurred, please state what PPE items failed to meet standards, and the volume of items rejected (if only an estimated value for this is held, please provide it).*

A2. Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Trust. However the information you request may be held by the Business Services Organisation. If you wish to pursue this request I would suggest you contact BSO on foi.bso@hscni.net

Q3. Please provide a copy of any reports into fraud relating to these PPE contracts, or national contracts, signed since February 1st.

A3. As the Trust has not awarded any PPE contracts since 1st February 2020 there have not been any reports relating to fraud in respect of PPE contracts.

Q4a. Please state the total cost to your trust due to fraud and error for each month for the period 1st January 2016 to 1st August 2020, if this information is retrievable within cost.

A4a. The cost to the Trust due to fraud and error for the period 1st January 2016 to 1st August 2020 has been Nil.

Q4b. If you have a breakdown for PPE related fraud and error, please also provide this for each month for the period February 1st to date, if this information is retrievable within cost.

A4b. The cost for PPE related fraud and error for the period 1st February to 31st July 2020 has been Nil.