

15 September 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35546

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Gambling Addiction**

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 24 August 2020.

A response to each of the questions 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**

I would like to ask for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q1. Can you inform me whether the Trust holds any data on the number of individuals presenting within the trust area suffering from gambling disorder? If any data is held, can you inform me as to how many individuals in each of the last three calendar years have presented with gambling disorder?

A1 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. We do not collate the data you have requested and therefore are unable to provide this.

Q2 What pathway does the trust offer to individuals identified to be suffering from gambling disorder (i.e. for example, if an individual presents to a General Practitioner, what advice does the trust give regarding treatment?)

A2. If individuals are referred to Community Addiction Services with a primary gambling problem, this referral is directed, 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 can direct patients with gambling problems to 'self-refer' to Cuain Mhuire (the Trust are unable to refer directly) who provide a bespoke service.

Q3. Does the Trust (a) have an addiction service (b) if it does, does it have a Tier 2 early intervention service available as part of its treatment (c) is gambling disorder treated under this service?

- a) The Trust has a dedicated addiction treatment service comprising of: 3 locality community addiction teams; a sub-regional inpatient addiction treatment unit and a Substance Misuse Liaison Team based in an Acute General Hospital.
- b) The Trust has access to a number of Tier 2 services that are contracted and commissioned through the Public Health Agency, that offer a range of early interventions to service users.
- c) The services offered by Tier 2 services include those provided by Dunlewey Addiction Services who have a bespoke gambling addiction treatment service.

Q4. What training, if any, does the trust provide to medical professionals for treating individuals suffering from gambling disorder? For example, does the Trust provide Gambling Awareness Training- OCNNI Level One?

A4. The Trust do not provide training to medical professionals in the treatment of problem gambling for the reasons detailed above. We remain happy to signpost primary problem gambling referrals to other those more appropriate services as detailed above.

Q5. What funding, if any, does the Trust provide for treatment of individuals suffering from gambling disorder (for e.g. to the Dunlewey centre)?

A5. The Trust do not commission or provide funding for the treatment of individuals suffering from problem gambling.

Q6. Is the trust aware of any funding being provided to any addiction treatment centre in Northern Ireland by the gambling industry? And if so, how much funding is involved?

A6. The Trust does not receive any funding from the gambling industry to provide treatment services. The Trust is unaware of any information in the public domain that it can specifically direct you to in order to answer your question.