

29 April 2021

Our Ref: RFI 37366

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Impact/Risk Assessments**

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 18 January 2021. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you. Thank you for your patience.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Planning, Performing & Informatics 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

- Q1. Kindly provide the impact/risk assessment that was completed by the Department of Health and/or the Trust prior to the first period of lockdown in Northern Ireland (March 2020 to May 2020)**
- Q2. Kindly provide the impact/risk assessment that was completed by the Department of Health and/or the Trust prior to the second period of lockdown in Northern Ireland (September 2020 to November 2020)**
- Q3. Kindly provide the impact/risk assessment that was completed by the Department of Health and/or the Trust prior to the third period of lockdown in Northern Ireland (December 2020 to February 2021).**

- A. During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Trust has remained committed to exploring every opportunity to ensure the provision of safe, high quality services to the local population. Due to the scale of the challenge, a coordinated, system wide approach was required and the Trust's strategic response was aligned with the principles of the Department of Health's Regional COVID-19 Pandemic Surge Planning Strategic Framework.

An equality screening was carried out in April 2020 to assess, mitigate and lessen any potential adverse impact where possible. This was in the light of available resources and the implications from a pandemic. The equality screening is subject to continuous review and ongoing screening in the changing COVID-19 landscape.

The Trust worked collaboratively with colleagues across the system and prepared for consecutive waves of the COVID-19 pandemic through the development Resilience and COVID-19 Surge Plans. The objective of these plans was to balance the increased pressure of a COVID-19 surge with the impact on other core services, whilst still maintaining patient safety as the overriding priority. An associated Equality Screening was also completed in relation to the Trust's Resilience and COVID-19 Surge Plan.

The COVID-19 Surge plans, along with additional extensive published information, are available to the public and free to download via the Department of Health's website (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/coronavirus>).

Please see Attachment 1 - Equality Good Relations and Human Rights Screening SET Covid 19 Response

Please see Attachment 2 - Equality Screening Trust Resilience and Surge Plan