

25 May 2021

Our Ref: RFI 38263

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Whistleblowers.**

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 17 March 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 Human Resources & Corporate Affairs 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. How many reports did you receive from whistleblowers in 2019 and in 2020?

A1. There were 5 cases reported from whistleblowers in the Trust in 2019 and 3 cases reported in 2020 through the formal mechanisms.

Q2. How many people do you have in your organisation that are trained/permitted to take reports from whistleblowers?

A2. The Trust has a number of mechanisms available to staff who wish to raise a concern.

These mechanisms are listed as follows:

- Raise with your manager if appropriate
- Raise with an Advisor/Advocate
- Raise with Director of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs
- Complete an online form
- Contact the Raising Concerns helpline
- Department of Health
- Prescribed persons/organisations

These are reviewed and actioned as appropriate by the relevant Director.

Q3. What training have the people in question number 2 received in whistleblowing?

A3. Training is available on I-Connect for all staff. A master class is delivered by PCaW (now Protect) for Advisors/Advocates was also completed.

Q4. What cost, if any, was there for this training?

A4. There was no cost for this training.

Q5. Which organisation delivered each course?

A5. In-house training for all staff training and PCaW (now Protect) for the master class.

Q6. What is the name of the person that arranged this training and what is their email address?

A6. The training is arranged through the Department of Health.

Q7. What methods do you have for whistleblowers to contact a person that is authorised to take their report and what are the specific details of these, i.e., email addresses, telephone numbers etc?

A7. Please refer to Answer 2 for the Trust's methods/mechanisms currently in place.
Once a concern is raised it will then be investigated.
The outcome reached is based on the findings; the lessons learnt are disseminated if appropriate and fed back to the person raising the concern.

Q8. What are the email addresses for the people authorised to receive whistleblower reports?

A8. Please refer to Answer 2 & 7

Q9. How many whistleblowers have left the organisation within 12 months of making a report?

A9. There have been no whistleblowers that have left the Trust within 12 months of making a report.

Q10. How many whistleblowers have made an allegation of 'detriment' against your organisation?

A10. In order for the Trust to provide the relevant and correct information to you, I would be grateful if you could please provide further clarification in relation to what you mean by 'detriment' and what information you are seeking?