

25 June 2021

**Our Ref:** RFI 38954

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**RE: Information Relating To Venesection Procedures and Venesection Costs**

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 12 May, 2021. I apologise for the delay in responding and thank you for your patience.

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](mailto:informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net)) .

If, after such a review, 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

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**Susan Clarke**  
**Information Governance Assistant**

## Appendix A

**Q1 For the most recent 12 month period available, the number of venesection procedures carried out by your organisation as a therapy or treatment for genetic haemochromatosis?**

A1. The Trust does not centrally record data to determine the number of venesection procedures carried out as a therapy or treatment for genetic haemochromatosis. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

**Q2 For the most recent 12 month period available, the average total cost of a venesection appointment (to include clinical consumables, nursing or phlebotomy staff time, administrative overheads etc)**

A2. The Trust is unable to provide a cost for this procedure as only the consumables can be costed. The consultant, nursing and administrative staff time are unable to be calculated, as staff do not perform only venesections.

Should you wish to obtain the cost of consumables only, then please let us know.