

02 June 2021

Our Ref: RFI 38025

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions.**

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 1 March 2021. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request as the Trust continue to rebuild services following the impact of the covid pandemic.

- Q1. *Other than an inflationary uplift, has the Community Health Services contract or budget allocation increased, decreased, or remained the same during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years?*
- Q2. *Does the Trust's contract or agreement for Community Health Service specifically include the provision of care, or services, for ambulatory sensitive conditions which are designed to prevent emergency admission to hospital?*
- Q3. *Is the prevention of admission to hospital with one or more ambulatory sensitive condition a specific component or target for the Trust's district nursing services?*
- Q4. *Has the Trust developed services, in the last two years (2019/20 and 2020/21 years), which are designed to prevent admission to hospital for patients with ambulatory sensitive conditions?*
- Q5. *If the answer to question 4 was yes – were these services to develop:*
- *New Teams within the Community Health Services*
 - *Ambulatory Care in the Hospital Setting*
 - *Existing Community Health Services and Teams*
 - *Primary Care – General Practice Services*
 - *Other (briefly describe)*

Definition of Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions: *Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) are health conditions-diagnoses for which timely and effective outpatient care can help to reduce the risks of hospitalization by either preventing*

the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episodic illness or condition, or managing a chronic disease (Sarmiento et al, 2020).

The information requested is not held on a central information system. In addition, the information requested cuts across a number of service areas across the Trust. 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.

Should you wish to refine your request and resubmit it, we will be happy to consider.

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