

Information Governance

21 July 2021

Our Ref: RFI 38135

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to the number of safeguarding incidents around
safeguarding of LAC**

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 7 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 Children's Services & Social Work 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. I would like to know the number of safeguarding incidents around safeguarding of Looked After Children (LAC) where sex was involved between LAC. Can I also request two distinct figures, firstly those in residential homes and secondly those in foster homes

A1. The number of safeguarding incidents around safeguarding of Looked After Children where sex was involved between LAC within the Trust in foster homes in the last 5 years is <5.

You will note that the numbers have been masked and this is due to small numbers within a small geographical area.

In relation to safeguarding incidents with children in residential homes, this information is not centrally recorded and would require a manual review of each child's file in order to provide this information. 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.