



17 May 2023

Our Ref: RFI 50476

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to OST Programme**

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 13 April 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare 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 Manager (Interim)

The following information is required in relation to the OST programme:

Q1. How does a person be assessed in the community?

A1. A referral is received from the patients GP or allied health professional to the local Community Addictions Team.

Q2. How long between assessment and treatment?

A2. The service currently aims to see, conduct assessment and have treatment agreed and commenced within 2-4 weeks.

Q3. Is there a prioritisation system or is it done based on referral/ date of presentation?

A3. Each case is assessed individually, however those who may be prioritised include, IV drug users, Hep C/HIV positive and pregnant women.

Q4. Roughly how long the waiting list is from date of referral/assessment before a decision is made and/or someone is being placed on OST.

A4. The decision as to who is appropriate for OST is made by the Consultant within the Addictions Team. Following initial assessment and when 3 urine drug screens confirming the presence of opiates have been received, an appointment with the Consultant will usually take place within 2-4 weeks from referral.