

21 April 2022

Our Ref: RFI 43597

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
In relation to fees paid for independent ambulance services for the last 5 years.**

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 16 March 2022. I apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates 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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. How much the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have paid to independent ambulance services for the past 5 years?

A1. Please See Attachment 1.

Q2. What types of services you pay them for as well?

A2. The types of services the private ambulances listed in Attachment 1 are paid for undertaking, are non-emergency patient transport.