

03 February 2022

Our Ref: RFI 42160

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to SARs-CoV-2 PCR Testing**

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 3 December 2021. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, due to the impact of Winter Pressures that the Trust is currently facing. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance of this matter

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) 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. Please break down of all costs associated with PCR testing within the Trust including, but not limited to procurement of PCR test kits, staffing costs and equipment associated with PCR testing, running/hire costs associated with PCR testing centres of all types, laboratory costs associated with PCR testing, advertising/PR, marketing, administration and reporting costs of PCR testing, etc, etc. by month for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.**
- Q2. Please break down of all costs associated with SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing within the Trust including, but not limited to procurement of SARS-CoV-2 PCR test kits, staffing costs and equipment associated with SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing, running/hire costs associated with SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing centres of all types, laboratory costs associated with SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing, advertising/PR, marketing, administration and reporting costs of SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing, etc, etc. by month for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.**

A1-2. Please see Attachment 1 - Costs Associated with PCR Testing

Please note there are no figures provided from April 2020 to September 2020 as the Trust did not begin testing until October 2020.

There are also no figures for the years 2018 & 2019 as this was pre the Covid Pandemic and therefore there are no costs.

- Q3. Of all the expenditure outlined above in #2, please break down the overall expenditure associated with SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing within the Trust between the money awarded to and/or sub-contracted to private companies/corporations/entities including but not limited to private laboratories compared to expenditures/monies that went to the publicly controlled Trust and health service resources including, but not limited to publicly funded and controlled laboratories.**

A3. The Trust did not outsource PCR Testing to private laboratories.