

Information Governance

7th February 2022

Our Ref: RFI 42533

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Covid Deaths**

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 11 January 2022. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you as the Trust continue to experience the impact of winter pressures.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Planning, Performance and Informatics 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

Joyce Batch
Information Governance Manager (Interim)

I am researching regarding COVID 19. Under the freedom of information act, please can you supply me with the following information:

Q1 ***How many people have died in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust hospitals and facilities from COVID 19 alone? I am aware of the number of people that have died within 28 days of a positive covid test, so they could have died from other causes. I would like to know the exact death figure, broken down by age categories, from 1st February 2020 until the 31st October 2021 of people that have died due to Covid-19 alone and not anything else.***

A1 Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not centrally recorded by the Trust. The Trust electronic system only holds information on those individuals, who have died with Covid and not solely from Covid.

Therefore to respond to this request would require a manual review of Trust records to collate, analyse and verify the accuracy of raw information provided to the Trust.

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.

However the information you request may be held by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA). NISRA are the official source for publication of accurate data. If you wish to pursue your request I would suggest you contact NISRA on demography@nisra.gov.uk

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.