

12 January 2022

**Our Ref:** RFI 41792

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information Relating to Return Home Interviews and Post-missing support  
services in respect of Children**

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 November 2021. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request. The delay is due to the impact of the winter pressures facing many services across the Trust. Thank you for your patience and understanding of this matter.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Service and 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](mailto: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

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**Joyce Batch**  
**Information Governance Manager (Interim)**

***I am writing to request information regarding your provision of Return Home Interviews and post-missing support services for children who have been reported missing.***

***Q1. Which agencies currently deliver Return Home Interviews (RHIs) to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:***

***Q1a A team based in your authority (Yes or No)***

- ***If yes: which team and/or what is the role of the professional delivering RHIs***

A1a No.

***Q1b A third sector agency? (Yes or No)***

- ***If yes, please tell us which agency?***
- ***What is the total current value of the contract?***
- ***What is the contract length?***
- ***When does the current contract end?***

A1b No.

***Q1c Other (Yes or No)***

- ***If yes, please tell us which team/ organisation and/or the role of the professional***
- ***What is the total current value of the contract?***
- ***What is the contract length?***
- ***When does the current contract end?***

A1c Yes;

A Social Worker will currently deliver RHIs to young people who have been missing from home or care in the Trust area, if the young person is known to Social Services.

Police will currently deliver RHIs to young people who have been missing from home or care in the Trust area, if they are not known to Social Services.

The remaining questions within this point are not applicable

**Q2. In addition to your return home interview service, do you provide post-missing support to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area? Post-missing support is often intensive, 121 support with a support worker which is used to further address and reduce the risks surrounding the missing child. This could include advocacy, safety planning and other emotional/practical support sessions. (Yes or No)**

A2. Young people and families already known to Social Services will have an allocated Social Worker who will provide appropriate support based on the assessment of need.

Young people who have been missing 3 times will be referred to Social Services and an allocated Social Worker will undertake an Initial assessment undertaken to determine the level of support required.

**Q3. If yes to question 2, who is your post-missing service in your local authority area delivered by?**

**Q3a A team based in your authority (Yes or No)**

- **If yes, please specify which team and/or what is the role of the professional delivering post-missing support**
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A3a Please refer to response at A2.

**Q3b A third sector agency? (Yes or No)**

- **If yes, please tell us which agency?**
- **What is the total current value of the contract?**
- **What is the contract length?**
- **When does the current contract end?**

A3b No.

**Q3c Other (Yes or No)**

- **If yes, please tell us which team/ organisation and/or the role of the professional**
- **What is the total current value of the contract?**
- **What is the contract length?**
- **When does the current contract end?**

A3c No.

**Q4 How are Return Home Interviews (RHI's) and/or your post missing support service delivered in your local authority area?**

**Q4a All face-to-face support**

A4a Yes: RHI's and/or post missing support is delivered face to face within the Trust area, unless there is an issue of Covid then it would be telephone or digitally.

**Q4b All telephone support (Yes or No)**

A4b Please refer to response at A4a.

**Q4c All digital support e.g. via teams, FaceTime, WhatsApp video (Yes or No)**

A4c Please refer to response at A4a.

**Q4d A combination of face-to-face and telephone support (Yes or No)**

A4d Please refer to response at A4a.

**Q4e A combination of telephone and digital support (Yes or No)**

A4e Please refer to response at A4a.

**Q4f A combination of face-to-face, telephone and digital support (Yes or No)**

A4f Please refer to response at A4a.

**Q4g Other (please specify):**

A4g Please refer to response at A4a.

**Q5. Does your Return Home Interview or post-missing service offer children and young people access to a freephone telephone number for out of hours support? (Yes or No)**

A5 No: The Trust does not have a specific Freephone number for out of hours support in respect of RHI's or post missing service for children.

**Q6. If yes, who provides this freephone service?**

A6 This question is not applicable.