

17 January 2022

Our Ref: RFI 42039

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to the Trusts digital Health Care Systems**

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 26 November 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 Questions 1 - 11, 13 - 17 & 19 - 23 is attached in Appendix A, this has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics Directorate.

In relation to Questions 12 & 18, I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release all of the documentation that is held in relation to 'the name of the Trusts Digital Health Care Systems', as the Trust considers that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 38 (Health and Safety), of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 38 permits the withholding of information if there is a risk to Health and Safety of Individuals.

Due to recent increase in cyber-security attacks, the Trust believes the release of the requested information could be used (either as is or in conjunction with other information obtained from the Trust) in the assessment of the Trust's systems and ICT defences and increase the risk of a cyber-security attack.

As a security attack may lead to the placing of patient and client information into the public domain, the release of the requested information could potentially lead to harm for a number of patients (in a mental health context or may lead to physical harm). Therefore, the Trust is applying the Health and Safety Exemption.

The Trust believes there is a link between the risk endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. The release of the requested information if not handled and interpreted appropriately could potentially lead to harm to you or others either in terms of mental health or in terms of physical harm or possibly both.

Recent security attacks have shown the threat to be real and likely to happen again. Therefore the Trust believes there is an increased likelihood of endangerment arising from the release of the requested information.

Section 38 is a qualified exemption. This means that the Trust has a duty to consider whether the disclosure should nevertheless be made in the public interest and must outline the Public interest/endangerment test.

The Trust considered any public interest factors which would influence the application of the exemption. The Trust has balanced the factors for release:

- There may be a public interest in providing the details of the Trust's Digital Healthcare Systems.
- In the interests of openness, transparency and accountability for how The Trust safeguards patient data and uses its resources.

Against the factors for withholding the information:

- Releasing the information leaves the Trust more vulnerable to a cyber attack
- The potential damage and cost to repair ICT systems as a consequence of a security attack.
- An attack would likely endanger or lead to a potential loss of sensitive personal information.
- The public expectation of the Trust's ability to keep their personal information confidential and secure.
- The potential to make patient/client personal information more vulnerable to an attack by releasing anti-virus vendor details.
- The Trust's duty under Data Protection Act 2018 to safeguard patient information.

On balance, the Public Interest Test is weighted towards the application of the exemption in response to Questions 12 & 18.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of Questions 12 & 18.

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. What is the name of your PAS supplier?**
- Q2. How much does this cost per annum?**
- Q3. What is the length of your contract for this service?**
- Q4. What is the total cost of your contract?**
- Q5. When does this contract expire?**
- Q6. What is the name of your EPR supplier? (If you do not have an EPR simply state "None").**
- Q7. How much does this cost per annum?**
- Q8. What is the length of your contract for this service?**
- Q9. What is the total cost of your contract?**
- Q10. When does this contract expire?**
- Q11. Is it your intention that the recent Epic procurement will replace your current PAS/EPR? If yes, by when do you think this will happen?**

A1-11. The information you requested for the Trusts Regional Systems is not held by the Trust.

However the information you request may be held by the Business Service Organisation (BSO) If you wish to pursue this request I would suggest you contact BSO on foi.bso@hscni.net

Mental Health

- Q13. How much does this cost per annum?**
- A13. The cost per annum is approximately £42,000.
- Q14. What is the length of your contract for this service?**
- A14. The length of the contract is 5 years.
- Q15. What is the total cost of your contract?**
- A15. The total cost of the contract is up to £700,000.
- Q16. When does this contract expire?**
- A16. The contract expires on 31 March 2024.

Q17. Is it your intention that the recent Epic procurement will replace your current Mental Health PAS/EPR? If yes, by when do you think this will happen?

A17. Yes, however the date for this is currently unknown.

Community

Q19. How much does this cost per annum? (If included in Mental Health cost, simply state "included", if extra, please state how much).

A19. The cost per annum is approximately £110,000.

Q20. What is the length of your contract for this service?

A20. The length of the contract is 2 years.

Q21. What is the total cost of your contract?

A21. The total cost of the contract is £220,000.

Q22. When does this contract expire?

A22. The contract expires on 31 October 2023.

Q23. Is it your intention that the recent Epic procurement will replace your current Community PAS/EPR? If yes, by when do you think this will happen?

A23. Yes, however the date for this is currently unknown.