

8 June 2022

Our Ref: RFI 44373

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
In Relation to the management of Placentas and Cords**

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 6 May 2022.

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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. Are all placentas and cords automatically destroyed in their entirety as clinical waste if there has not been prior consent from the mother to donate or prior arrangement made by the mother for storage etc.?

A1. Within the Trust, the baby's placenta and cord are managed as clinical waste, unless parents have made a specific request, or prior arrangements in relation to the management of their baby's placenta and cord after birth e.g. storage or donation.