

11 September 2023

Our Ref: RFI 52795

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Psychodermatology Services.**

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 15 August 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer 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 Officer

Q1. As of today's date, how long, on average, are patients on the waiting list to access your Psychodermatology services?

A1. As of today's date, on average, patients are on the waiting list to access Psychodermatology services for 8 months.

Q2. As of today's date, what % of patients currently accessing your Psychodermatology services have had to be referred to you from other areas of the country as Psychodermatology services are not available where they live ie what % of patients are utilising the service who don't live within the area the Trust is responsible for?

A2. While we cannot provide an exact percentage of patients utilising the service, who don't live within the area the Trust is responsible for, it is approximately 84%.

Q3. How far does the patient accessing your Psychodermatology services who lives the furthest away from the hospital have to travel? I know that some Psychodermatology services are taking patients who live three hours, or more, away as these services are so rare across the UK

A3. Currently the patient who lives the furthest away has to travel 70 miles to access the Psychodermatology services.