



24 October 2023

**Our Ref:** RFI53332

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Withdrawal of Services**

I am writing to confirm that, following the response issued to you dated 6 October 2023, the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you queried on 9 October 2023.

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](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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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. *There is a circular for the change or removal of services, which is required to be submitted to SPPG before doing so. That hangs on the consequence of knowing if a removal of service will be known as major or controversial.- in which case it does need approval/support from SPPG & PHA***

A1. In relation to changes or withdrawals of services carried out by the Trust, the following changes were considered as major or controversial:

1. Changes to urgent and emergency care services at Lagan Valley Hospital, Lisburn
2. The Future provision of urgent and emergency care services – Ards and North Down area

In line with Departmental policy on change or withdrawal of services, the Strategic Planning & Performance Group (SPPG) and the Public Health Agency (PHA) approval was sought. These changes were subject to public consultation.