



23 November 2023

Our Ref: RFI54435

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Access to the Perinatal Mental Health Team**

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 30 October 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1. *How do expectant mothers access the perinatal mental health team? What staff are in that team eg. psychiatrist?*

- A1. The Perinatal Mental Health Team is a specialist mental health service for women who are pregnant (from 12 weeks gestation) or have given birth within 12 months. The team offers a service to perinatal women who have a serious mental illness, who are at risk of developing a serious mental illness or for those who are experiencing moderate to severe or complex mental health difficulties. These women can access the perinatal mental health team through their community mental health practitioner or psychiatrist, their health visitor, maternity and obstetrics services or via their GP.

The Perinatal Mental Health team in the Trust is a multidisciplinary team made up of consultant psychiatrists, a nurse service lead, mental health nurses, a social worker, an occupational therapist, a health visitor, a midwife and an administrator.