

12 January 2024

Our Ref: RFI 55100

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Gender Options on Patients Forms**

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 1 December 2023. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Planning, Performance & 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) 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. Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like the following information:

Please provide a list of all gender options you list on patient forms.

A1. The information requested is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice.

However, from the 9 November 2023, the Trust implemented an electronic system and the possible options are listed below:

Gender Identity: Female, Male, Other, Choose not to disclose, Non-binary, Not Known

Sex assigned at birth: Female, Male, Unknown, Not recorded on birth certificate, choose not to disclose, Uncertain