

24 January 2024

**Our Ref:** RFI 55659

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Asbestos.**

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 8 January 2024.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates 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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**Caroline Degans**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. Under FOI legislation please tell me how much your health trust has spent on the removal and management of asbestos in healthcare setting buildings between 2019 and 2023.**

A1. The Trust has spent £1,034,070.37 on the removal and management of asbestos in healthcare setting buildings between 2019 and 2023.

**Q2. Please also tell me how many cases have been identified of asbestos exposure to an individual from within a healthcare building in your health trust during the same time period.**

A2. There have been <5 cases identified of asbestos exposure to an individual from within a healthcare building in the Trust between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2023.

Please note where numbers are 1-4, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

**Q3. Finally can you also tell me how much your health trust has paid out between 2019 and 2023 in compensation as a result of asbestos exposure in buildings within your health trust.**

A3. The Trust has paid out £10,000 between 2019 and 2023 in compensation as a result of asbestos exposure in buildings within the Trust.