

Our Ref: RFI56400

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to End of Life Care Guidance for Patients
withdrawing from Non-Invasive Ventilation**

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 7 February 2024.

A response to the question raised has been provided by the Medicine, Unscheduled Care & Cancer Services 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. I am undertaking a research study into the shape and content of end-of-life care guidance for patients withdrawing from non-invasive ventilation (NIV) or continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). Many Trusts have created such guidelines to support frontline staff in this tricky area of care. Please may I request a copy of your relevant guidelines under FOI?

A1. Whilst the Trust has clinical guidelines/procedure relating to supported ventilation, it does not include any specific detail in relation to end of life/withdrawal of treatment. This decision would be made on a case by case basis, in discussion with the patient/family and reflective of the individual's clinical presentation.

Therefore, the Trust do not have any relevant guidelines to provide.