

30 May 2024

Our Ref: RFI 58309

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to ‘an Adult at risk of Harm’.**

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 29 April 2024. 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 Adult 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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

In relation to the years, April 2020-March 2021, April 2021- March 2022, and April 2022- March 2023, I require the following information:

Q1. *The number of referrals to the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust of abuse of “an adult at risk of harm” or “adult in need of protection” aged 60 or over.*

A1. Please see Table 1 below, for the number of referrals received by the Adult Protection Gateway Team within the Trust between April 2020 and March 2023.

Table 1

	Total number of referrals to APGT		
	2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022	2022 - 2023
April	44	48	81
May	58	72	24
June	67	56	41
July	77	72	120
August	74	71	101
September	68	55	76
October	60	72	111
November	53	89	109
December	52	71	102
January	64	64	106
February	66	74	108
March	50	96	108

Please note, it is not possible to provide data in relation to adult protection referrals, specific to adults aged sixty or over, as the Adult Protection Gateway Team does not centrally hold a breakdown of referral information in relation to age. To provide this information would require a review of each referral entry to ascertain the age of the adult referred to our service.

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 in respect of providing data specific to age.

Q2. A breakdown of the ages of the “adult at risk of harm” identified above.

A2. As mentioned in the response above, the Adult Protection Gateway Team within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust does not centrally hold a breakdown of referral information in relation to age.

Q3. A breakdown of the gender of the “adult at risk of harm” identified above.

A3. The Adult Protection Gateway Team within the Trust does not centrally hold a breakdown of referral information in relation to gender. To provide this information would require a review of each referral entry to ascertain the gender of the adult referred to our service.

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 in respect of providing data specific to gender.