



20 June 2024

Our Ref: RFI 58635

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Safeguarding and Child Safety Policies and
Procedures**

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 16 May 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 Children's Service & Social Work 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

Could I please have, by email, applicable to the South Eastern Gateway Team on 12/02/2024?

- Q1. Trust Protocol for the removal of children from their parents' care.**
- Q2. Policies and procedures valid on 12/02/2024 that the staff must abide by for the removal of children from their parents.**
- Q3. Safeguarding and child safety policies and procedures valid on 12/02/2024 that the staff must abide by for the removal of children from their parents**

A1-3. In response to questions 1, 2 & 3, the Trust Social Services are required under the Children (NI) Order 1995 to identify and investigate any potential safeguarding risks to children and young people and to take appropriate actions to protect children deemed to be at risk of suffering significant harm. Actions in this context may include the removal of a child from the care of its parent. Please see below website where the legislation is included.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1995/755/contents/made>

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) Child Protection Policies and Procedures sets out for agencies, including Trusts, how and what actions to take where there are concerns that a child/young person is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This may include in specific circumstances removing a child/young person from their parents care. The Trust Gateway Service operate under the SBNI Policies and Procedures. Please see below website

[Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Procedures Manual \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com)