

27 June 2024

**Our Ref:** RFI 58918**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to the Trusts Voice, Data & Network**

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 4 June 2024.

A response to questions 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 6e, 7e, 8a – 8c & 9f has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to questions 1a - 1c, 1e, 1f, 2a - 2c, 2e, 2f, 3a - 3c, 3e - 3h, 4a - 4g, 5a - 5e, 6a - 6c, 7a - 7d, 7f, 8d, 8e & 9a - 9e I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested in questions 1a - 1c, 1e, 1f, 2a - 2c, 2e, 2f, 3a - 3c, 3e - 3h, 4a - 4g, 5a - 5e, 6a - 6c, 7a - 7d, 7f, 8d, 8e & 9a - 9e is exempt from release under Section 31 and Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

These are all qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

- a) (Section 31) Leave the Trust patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime
- b) (Section 38) permits the withholding of information if there is a risk to Health and Safety of Individuals within the Trust. To withhold there must be a likelihood of endangerment to the physical or mental health of any individual

**Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section**

**Section 31(1)(a)** states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more

vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime

### Section 38 – Health and safety

**Section 38 states** that as a security attack may lead to the placing of patient and client information into the public domain, the release of the requested information could potentially lead to harm for a number of patients (in a mental health context or may lead to physical harm)

The Trust believes there is a link between the risk endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. There would likely be a substantial detrimental effect on the physical or mental health of patients and clients, should the requested information be released

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 1a - 1c, 1e, 1f, 2a - 2c, 2e, 2f, 3a - 3c, 3e - 3h, 4a - 4g, 5a - 5e, 6a - 6c, 7a - 7d, 7f, 8d, 8e & 9a - 9e

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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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**LAN**

**Q1d. Who maintains the LAN?**

A1d. The Network Manager.

**WLAN Wireless LAN**

**Q2d. Who maintains the WLAN?**

A2d. The Network Manager.

**Data Centre**

**Q3d. Who maintains the data centre equipment?**

A3d. The Data centre manager.

**Mobile**

**Q6d. When is your contract renewal/expiry date?**

A6d. The contract expiry date is June 2025.

**Q6e. Have you recently reviewed/when are you next reviewing this service?**

A6e. This service is reviewed on a monthly basis.

**Telephony**

**Q7e. When is your contract renewal/expiry date?**

A7e. The contract expiry date is April 2025.

**Teams Phone System**

**Q8a. Do you use Microsoft for PSTN calling?**

A8a. No, the Trust does not use Microsoft for PSTN calling.

**Q8b. Which types of Microsoft telephony do you use (eg Calling plan, Skype, Operator Connect, Direct routing)**

A8b. N/A

**Q8c. How many users?**

A8c. N/A  
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Appendix A

**Contact centre**

**Q9f. *Have you recently reviewed/when are you next reviewing this service?***

A9f. This service was last reviewed in April 2023.