

E Farrell

request-876794-ecfef45c@whatdotheyknow.com

01 August 2022

Ref: FOI_22-23_075

Freedom of Information Request

Dear E Farrell,

Thank you for your request for information, received on 08 July 2022, which reads as follows;

Paragraph 2.4.1.2 of the Housing Selection Scheme guidance manual says

"Where 16 /17 years olds approach the Housing Executive for accommodation, it will be necessary to establish if they are owed a duty under the Children Order.

'The Housing Executive will not routinely refer applicants to Health and Social Services for assessment under the Children (NI) Order, 1995. Referrals will only be made to the professional head of Family and Child Care services in the relevant Trust in instances where the Housing Executive has reason to believe that the individual poses a threat to his / her or someone else's safety and wellbeing (particularly children), or that a child may have been abused.

'Where Health and Social Services have determined that they have statutory responsibility for an Applicant aged 16 / 17 years, then the Designated Officers should obtain formal recommendations or reports from Health and Social Services to confirm or explain the client's specific circumstances and needs.'

Can you please explain what practical steps a housing adviser is required to take to satisfy this paragraph and the regional good practice guidance on meeting the accommodation and support needs of 16-21 year olds agreed between NIHE and health and social care trusts?

This request has been processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 procedures and response is provided below.

- 1) Can you please explain what practical steps a housing adviser is required to take to satisfy this paragraph?***

In regard to your request for an explanation of processes, while this does not fall within the remit of the Freedom of the Information Act, you may find the details within the supplied document.

2) *Regional good practice guidance on meeting the accommodation and support needs of 16-21 year olds agreed between NIHE and health and social care trusts?*

Please find enclosed a copy of the Regional Guidance as requested.

You have the right to request a formal review by the Housing Executive within two calendar months of the date of this letter.

You may write to:

Freedom of Information
Information Governance Team
Planning, Performance Risk & Governance
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8PB

or contact us via email at FOI@nihe.gov.uk .

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of our original decision.

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours Sincerely,

Brian O'Kane
Assistant Director, Housing Services

Personal Information

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