

Our ref: CT/jmck/FOI – 1052

23rd May 2022

By Email: (request-856990-0ae53f5f@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Welsh

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information regarding letters requesting evidence of free health service treatment has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you should write to Dr Catherine Weaver, Head of Information Governance, the FOI lead for the Trust. You have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. 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 review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact Information Governance at the following address:

Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Ferndale
Bannvale Site
10 Moyallen Road
Gilford
BT63 5JX

Tel: 028 37561458

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

Yours sincerely

(Sent electronically, not signed)

CATHERINE TEGGART
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PROCUREMENT

Enc: Response FOI/1052

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSE 1052

Question in full

Dear Southern Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland),

Following the response to my previous FOI request (Ref: FOI – 926) (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/eea_entitlement_to_free_health_s#incoming-1973854), I wanted to ask the following questions for clarification about the number of people who have been asked to prove their entitlement to free health service treatment.

1. How many letters from your trust requesting evidence of entitlement to free health service treatment have been sent for the following years:
 - a. 2019
 - b. 2020
 - c. 2021

2. How many questionnaires from these letters have been returned for the following years:
 - a. 2019
 - b. 2020
 - c. 2021

3. How many of the returned questionnaires were received from EEA nationals in the following years:
 - a. 2019
 - b. 2020
 - c. 2021

If you cannot answer all the questions, please answer those that you can.

Southern Health and Social Care Trust Response

The number of letters issued from the Trust Access to Healthcare Team requesting evidence of entitlement to free health service treatment relating to the years:

- a. 2019 – 820 letters*
- b. 2020 – 456 letters*
- c. 2021 – 488 letters*

2. How many questionnaires from these letters have been returned for the following years:

- a. 2019 - 259 questionnaires*
- b. 2020 - 261 questionnaires*
- c. 2021 - 249 questionnaires*

3. How many of the returned questionnaires were received from EEA nationals in the following years:

- a. 2019*
- b. 2020*
- c. 2021*

In order to provide you with the information, where it is available, would require an extensive manual exercise to review each response during the periods identified. Therefore, the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the appropriate limit as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It would exceed the £450 fee limit and is cost prohibitive.