

FOI3148 – Concerning Public Governors of the Trust

We can confirm that Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust can advise as follows in response to your Freedom of Information Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide:

- a) Date of election to Council of Governors, date of initial meeting with Chair and Company Secretary (or confirmation that meeting is yet to be scheduled):

We can confirm that the elections were confirmed by the Returning Officer on 24.03.2020. The Company Secretary held an induction meeting on 09.07.2020 but all other meetings were put on hold as a result of COVID-19, these have now been reinstated and we are currently looking for dates to accommodate these meetings.

- b) Details of any formal training provided to those new governors, including date, duration and name of course or subject covered and name of training provider:

Our standard induction plan for incoming Governors is as follows:

- Induction Meeting with the Chair and Company Secretary
- Induction meeting with the Lead Governor
- Governor Handbook provided with links to external guidance
- Programme of Development provided internally throughout the year
- Opportunities to attend externally facilitated events provided by external suppliers

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been unable to proceed with the standard practice and have needed to postpone this internally, as well as externally due to the providers of the training needing to adapt to virtual sessions.

We are in communication with an external provider of Governor training to hold in-house training for our Governors which will include core skills and those which will support Governors in undertaking their role.

- c) Total budget for 2020/21 for training for governors:

It is not possible to provide a figure because we do not have a particular budget line for Governor training. We provide training as a matter of course to ensure we provide incoming and current Governors with the skills to be able to undertake their role.



d) Total expenditure to date in 2020/21 for training for governors:

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown coming into force from March 2020, we had been unable to arrange externally facilitated training for Governors. As mentioned in question B above, we have already commenced communications with an external provider to provide training to our Governors as a Group.

e) Please provide a copy of any induction pack, Governors handbook or other training or induction information provided to governors who were appointed on or after 1 April 2020.

As requested, we have attached the Governor Handbook which has been supplied to incoming Governors as well as current Governors (due to the fact that it has recently been updated).

Please note: There have been some minimal redactions made to Appendix F in line with section 40(2) of the FOIA where these contained the personal information of individual governors, and to disclose this information would not constitute fair processing of their personal data.