



Health and Social  
Care Board

Health and Social Care Board  
Gransha Park House  
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Clooney road  
L'Derry  
BT476FN

Jimmy Hamill

Via (e)mail [request-600588-76e8d8a0@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-600588-76e8d8a0@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

**Our Ref No: FOI 1063 19**

Dear Mr Hamill,

**Reference – Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information. Your request was received by email on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Your request has been processed under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I have now had an opportunity to consider your request and I have set out my response below and in the attached appendices.

**Request.**

Your request read, *'Thank you for your reply to my request.'*

*You will be aware that the response was significantly beyond the expected date for fulfillment of the FOI request.*

*Can I ask that you provide me with reasons for the delay along with any associated email and other communications related to this request?'*

**In response.**

There was an initial delay between the submission of your request to the HSCB on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019, and your request being passed to the HSCB Information Governance Team with initial action commencing on the morning of 6th September 2019 (see email at bullet point 2 and email at bullet point 3 of appendix 1 attached.)

There was some initial difficulty in ascertaining which Directorate within the HSCB was most appropriate to lead on the development of a formal response to FOI 1044 19. After internal discussions between the HSCB Information

Governance Team and both the Integrated Care Directorate and Commissioning Directorates, it was established that the latter was the most appropriate to take this forward. This initial confusion centred on interpretation of terminology within your request and mapping that across to the relevant HSCB activities.

Commissioning team discussions commenced around 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 where it was noted that input would be required from the Director of Commissioning in the preparation of the response. Given the numerous responsibilities held by the Director, and taking into account annual leave commitments of all the relevant staff involved during the stages of this FOI request, there was difficulty in scheduling a meeting for discussion to take place.

During the course of the development of the response to FOI 1044 19, the staff involved endeavoured to ensure that the response would provide the most relevant and accurate information possible. As noted in my initial response, the make-up of these 'integrated service teams' and the duration of their activities vary widely within and across both Directorates and Organisations, as such, considerable time was spent retrospectively identifying all relevant information resulting in several revisions to the final response being necessary as additional information came to our attention. Having taken some time to gather and provide this information, and given the commitment of officers to fully consider this request, we are confident that the final response is representative of the activity you sought.

It is worth noting that those staff who assigned time to develop this response included a Director and Assistant Director, and a number of senior managers who were committed to ensuring that the fullest and most accurate response was developed to meet our obligations under Freedom of Information legislation. This work was carried out in an environment where there are significant competing demands on limited and stretched resources.

I have set out a timeline of actions taken by the HSCB at appendix 1 attached, and would direct you to the information attached at appendix 2 through 39 for any associated emails or communications related to your request (FOI 1044 19).

Once again, please accept my apologies for the delays associated with this and the further two FOI requests that were processed in addition to FOI 1044 19.

I trust you find this response helpful, however, if you are unhappy with my response, please contact me and I will initiate an internal review into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Mr Peter Moran  
Assistant Information Governance Manager  
HSCB – Western Offices