

What if I am refused information?

We will tell you what information has been withheld and why. If you are not satisfied with our response, please contact us and tell us why. If we cannot resolve the matter and you remain unhappy you can ask the Northern Ireland Information Commissioner (address below) to decide if your request has been dealt with correctly.

Where can I get more information about FOI Act?

You can get more information about FOI from the Northern Ireland Information Commissioner at -

51 Adelaide Street,
Belfast BT2 8FE

Tel: (028) 9026 9380

Fax: (028) 9026 9388

E-mail: ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

The PHA's website will provide information about the Agency and contact details if you want to request information. You can phone and speak to an FOI Officer, who will assist you with your request, Telephone: (028) 9032 1313 ext 2351.

Please remember that a request for copies of information is required in writing.

Corporate Services
Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast BT2 8BS
Telephone: (028) 9032 1313

June 2009

The Freedom of Information Act 2000

Public Information Leaflet

What is the Freedom of Information Act?

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives everyone the right to obtain information from public organisations including hospitals, health centres and health agencies. This means that you can access information about how the Public Health Agency (PHA) works, how we spend public money, and **how** and **why** we make decisions.

You can also request information under -

- **The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)**, which gives everyone access rights to their own personal information. The DPA covers both private and public organisations.
- **The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)**, which give everyone the right to environmental information held by public organisations.

How can I get information about PHA under the FOI Act?

Some PHA information is available on our website - www.publichealth.hscni.net Information regarding the former legacy organisation is also available via links on this site, this information is provided free of charge. If the information you require is not available from our website, you can make a request

in writing, by:

Post: The FOI Department
Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street,
Belfast BT2 8BS

Fax: (028) 9055 3681

E-mail: foi.pha@hscni.net

All requests for copies of information under the FOI Act must be made in writing. It will be helpful if you tell us what information you are requesting, and give us your name, address and contact telephone number.

Is there any cost for getting information?

Information will be provided free of charge up to a value of £450, however, if there are production costs, such as photocopy and laser printing, there will be a nominal charge. These production costs will apply to all requests.

What information is available from the Agency ?

The FOI Act gives you the right to access almost all the information the PHA holds, but there is some information, which cannot be made public. Information given in confidence, information relating to national security or law enforcement, and personal details about others cannot be provided, these are known as 'exemptions'.

You can obtain your own personal information through the Data Protection Act.

What happens if the information is not available?

The FOI Act does not require us to provide information that we do not already gather, however, we do have a duty to help you with your request. We will contact you and tell you what information we do hold and whether that may help with your query.