

FOI 3107

4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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- 1. In the years 2001- 2007, were post-adoption support services offered by the Trust to adult birth relatives of adopted persons (e.g. non-adopted siblings) provided:**

**Response:**

Within the Southern Trust, post adoption services are offered to adult birth relatives of an adopted person informed, by an assessment of circumstances at the time.

- a) under a statutory duty (e.g., Article 54 of the Adoption (NI) Order 1987), or  
b) on a discretionary or voluntary basis?**

**Response:**

This post-adoption support has been provided on a discretionary / voluntary basis.

- 2. If these services were provided under a statutory duty, please provide:**

- \* The relevant legislation or policy in force at the time which defined this duty, and**
- \* Any guidance issued by the Trust or Department of Health on the eligibility of adult birth relatives (such as siblings) for statutory post-adoption support.**

**Response:**

N/A

- 3. If these services were discretionary during these years, please clarify:**

- \* Whether records generated as part of those services were classified as health & social care records**

**Response:**

Records generated in the provision of post adoption support completed are linked to the adoption file of the adoptee.

- \* Please advise how the records were stored i.e. along with adoption records or separately.**

**Response:**

These records are stored with the specific adoption record. The record has been stored under the birth family details.

**4. How were these types of files labelled during these years? Did they have a category recorded on the file cover, or only a general work area indicated i.e. adoption or mental health.**

**Response:**

Records are categorised as general work within specific adoptees files. If linked to the birth relative file, it was clearly categorised as 'adoption'.

**5. If a general work area was indicated on the file covers of these records, would this have been 'adoption', 'mental health' or 'other'.**

**Response:**

The record is linked to the adoptee's file under 'adoption' and 'birth relative'.

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