

FOI 3137

12th June 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

The Trust's policies on access to deceased patients' records, including how discretion is exercised under current guidance and in particular in light of the government's obligation to address human rights violations and systemic abuses within the health and social welfare trusts that have been acknowledged by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Response:

Please see attached guidance which details the Trust's approach to the disclosure of deceased patients' records, and which is in keeping with the Access to Health Records (NI) Order 1993.

- 1. The Trust's record retention schedules for maternity and adoption-related records dating from the 1960s.**

Response:

The Trust has adopted the Department of Health Good Management, Good Records Disposal Schedule which is publicly available. The link to the schedule is provided below for ease of reference.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/gmgr-disposal-schedule.pdf>

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net