

FOI 3168

25th June 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing to request the most recent available data for individuals registered within your Health and Social Care Trust under the following categories:

1. Vision Impairment

Number of individuals registered as severely sight impaired (registered blind)

Number of individuals registered as sight impaired (registered partially sighted)

Response:

Deaf Blind	116
Severely Sight Impaired	751
Sight Impaired	444
Visual Impaired	1,095

2. War Disablement

Number of individuals currently in receipt of or registered under War Disablement Pension status

Response:

This is not information collated by the Trust.

3. Learning Disability

Number of individuals registered with a learning disability

For each category, I would be grateful for: A breakdown by age group if available

Response:

Please see Attachment 1 - SHSCT Data of those Registered with a Learning Disability by Age

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the exact figures from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of

an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

The date when the data was last updated:

Response:

The Data provided above in Table 1 is information held by the SHSCT as of 7th May 2025. The SHSCT moved to Encompass, a new digital system on 8th May 2025. The Trust is currently in the Encompass optimization phase and is unable to confidently report on disability registers at this time from Encompass. The data provided is from the previous digital system Paris.

Any additional notes regarding trends (historical data would be very welcome), eligibility criteria, or changes in registration processes

Response:

This Learning Disability Register holds data on Service Users (Adults and Children) who have a diagnosis of a Learning Disability / Intellectual Disability. Learning Disability and Intellectual disability are interchangeable terms. A diagnosis of Adult Learning Disability / Intellectual Disability requires the demonstration of the three essential criteria listed below:

1. Significant impairment of intellectual functioning
2. Significant impairment of adaptive behaviour
3. Onset of these impairments before adulthood

Who should be on an IT System Register for Learning Disability:

1. Service Users (Adults and Children) who have a confirmed Learning Disability / Intellectual Disability.
2. Have given consent* to be on the Trust's Learning Disability Register.
3. The individual is NOT required to be in receipt of services to be added to the Learning Disability Register.

* People with an Intellectual Disability should as a matter of course make choices or decisions about their individual health and social care needs. This needs to be balanced with the individual's ability to make such decisions and the views of their family, carers and advocates should be taken into account in the planning and delivery of services, unless there are explicit and valid reasons to the contrary agreed with the person. Adults with an Intellectual Disability should be helped by healthcare professionals to develop their capacity to give or refuse informed consent. Capacity should be assumed, but if a service user has been assessed as lacking capacity to make a specific decision in relation to their care, this decision should be made in their best interest.

Who should not be on an IT System Register for Learning Disability:

1. Service Users who do not meet the above listed criteria.
2. Service users who have not given their consent to be on the Register.
3. Deceased Service Users

Table 2: Total People with a Learning Disability Registered with the Southern Trust Per Year (2021 – 2025)

Year	Total on register
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2021	2542
2022	2514
2023	2479
2024	2549
2025	2599

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