

FOI 3404

5th November 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Question: Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request a copy of the Trust's current Chaperone Policy which applies to intimate examinations and procedures carried out within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, including Craigavon Area Hospital.

If available, please also include:

- **Any previous versions of this policy that were in force during 2024;**

Response:

The SHSCT Chaperone Policy (2025) is a new Trust Policy therefore, there are no previous versions of this Policy. Guidance for Nursing and Midwifery Staff on Chaperoning (2010) was previously in place.

- **Any related staff training materials, procedural guidance, or internal audit requirements relating to the use of chaperones;**

Response:

There are no training materials relating to the use of chaperones. The Chaperone Policy (2025) is a comprehensive Policy document which includes procedural guidance within the Policy and appendices. The first internal audit of the policy will be undertaken in March 2026 (one year from policy implementation).

- **Any documents or appendices that explain how patients are informed of their rights regarding chaperones and how staff are expected to record consent, offer, refusal, or presence of a chaperone.**

Response:

How patients are informed of their rights regarding chaperones and how staff are expected to record consent, offer, refusal, or presence of a chaperone is included within the Chaperone Policy (2025).

Appendix 2 of the Chaperone Policy (2025) includes:

- Service Users Rights
- Dignity and Respect
- Provision of a Chaperone
- Unavailability of a Chaperone

- Consent and Capacity
- Role of the Chaperone

A Chaperone poster for display in wards and departments is included in Appendix 3 of the Chaperone Policy (2025).

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net