

FOI 3450

25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the Southern Health and Social Care Trust:**

**The approximate total number of 20th century adoption case files held by the Trust (including paper and electronic records).**

**Please also include:**

- a) **The date range of those records.**

### **Response:**

The Trust have a note of approximately 2660 records, many of which have been moved to closed records, and it would require a manual check of each of these records to clarify if they originated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. To obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

### **b) The format of the records**

**Response:** Adoption records from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are mainly paper records with a small number having been transferred to electronic records in recent years.

- c) **The physical or digital storage locations used (for example, “on-site archive at [site name]”, “off-site commercial storage”, or “Trust network drive”).**

### **Response:**

The Trust would not divulge the exact location of closed files due to the sensitive nature of the information.

Current/recent adoption files are located onsite within Adoption services.

**d) Whether the Trust maintains a register, database, or inventory of adoption files — and if so, the fields recorded.**

**Response:** An inventory is maintained which records Birth name/adoptive name/DOB

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