

FOI 3391

16th December 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

We make the following requests under the Freedom of Information Act, to both the Trust and the Department and would be grateful for a response within the statutory time limit.

- 1. Details of the number of children in accommodation who have severe intellectual disabilities and details of when these children will turn 18 and therefore need to move to adult accommodation.**

Response:

<5

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

- 2. Details of the number of places in Northern Ireland specifically for adults with severe disabilities and whether these have already been filled or are available for placement.**

Response:

The Trust is not in a position to answer this question as it does not hold information on all care providers or the number of places specifically for adults with severe disabilities. This information may be available from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) whose responsibility is to regulate services that require to be registered. You can contact them at:

FOI.BSO@hscni.net

3. Details of any plans to create further such placements for adults with severe intellectual disabilities.

Response:

The SHSCT will continue to work with Independent Sector Providers to grow and develop placements for adults with severe intellectual disabilities as per the assessed need of individuals and in line with available financial and other resources.

4. For each of the last 20 years, details of:

a. How many children with severe learning disabilities requiring accommodation turned 18 each year;

Response:

The SHSCT is unable to provide the information requested 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. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information and the cost to provide the requested information 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. Where each individual was placed on turning 18.

Response:

As per response 4a above.

5. Guidance for the transfer of children with severe learning disabilities in accommodation to suitable adult accommodation, to include guidelines re the funding of same and the interaction between the various state bodies.

Response:

Where a young person with a severe learning disability is due to transition from children's services to adult services, professionals from children's and adult services will work together and in partnership with the service user and their family to identify needs and services to meet assessed needs.

Once the young person turns eighteen years, adult services become responsible for the funding of services provided to the young person. The Trust will seek funding from the SPPG when the assessed needs cannot be met within existing resources.

SPPG are leading a regional review of Transition processes across Northern Ireland. Regional Transition Good Practice Guidance has been drafted and once approved will be implemented across all five Trusts.

6. Copy of the Trust's Business Case 24/25 & 25/26 for funding to support young people transitioning from children to adult services. (Redacted if appropriate)

Response:

The Trust is unable to share the Transition Business Cases for 2024/2025 as it details sensitive personal information on several young adults transitioning from children to adult services. To date there has not been a business case submitted to SPPG for 2025/2026 transitions.

Section 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt this information 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

7. Copy of the Framework document prepared under Section 5 of the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (NI) 2009.

Response:

This information may be held by Department of Health / SPPG. You can contact them at:

FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

8. Copies of any policies developed to secure the improvement of the health and social well-being of, and to reduce the health inequalities between, people in Northern Ireland, under Section 3(a) of the 2009 Act, in particular any such policies relating to persons with severe intellectual disabilities.

Response:

This information may be held by Department of Health/SPPG. You can contact them at:

FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

9. Copies of any general policies and principles by reference to which the provision of social care to persons with severe intellectual disabilities is to be exercised, under section 2(f) of the 2009 Order.

Response:

This information may be held by Department of Health/SPPG. You can contact them at:

FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

10. Details of the priorities and objectives the Department has determined in accordance with section 2(b) and section 4 of the 2009 Order, in particular details of the priorities and objectives as they relate to persons with severe intellectual disabilities.

Response:

This information may be held by Department of Health/SPPG. You can contact them at:

FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

11. Details of any programmes and initiatives commissioned and / or developed by the Department in accordance with section 2(g) of the 2009 Order, which are conducive to the improvement of the health and social well being of, and a reduction of health inequalities between people in Northern Ireland. In particular any such programmes and initiatives relating to persons with severe intellectual disabilities are requested.

Response:

This information may be held by Department of Health/SPPG. You can contact them at:

FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

12. Details of all premises in Northern Ireland at which facilities are available to provide accommodation and social care for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities.

Response:

The Trust is not in a position to answer this question as it does not hold information on all care providers / facilities that provide accommodation and social care for individuals with severe disabilities. This information may be available from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) whose responsibility is to regulate services that require to be registered. You can contact them at:

FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net