

FOI 1555

30.03.2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I would like the organisation to provide me with the following departmental documents around ICT and corporate procurement.

Many organisations within your region have different document title names:

1. 2023/24 IT Department Documents ;- these types of documents have detailed information on the department's future plans and strategies. These documents include:

- **ICT Strategy/Plan** – Southern Health & Social Care Trust are guided by the regional HSC Northern Ireland Digital Strategy (2022 – 2030) - which can be accessed [here](#)
- **ICT Department Plan** – not yet developed for 2023/24
- **ICT Financial Plan** – not yet developed for 2023/24.

2. ICT Org Chart;- with names and job titles

- See attached Digital Services organisational chart.

Information below team manager level and staff names has not been provided.

The information requested in this FOI request is exempt from release under Section 31 and Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These are both qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

a) Leave (Southern Health & Social Care Trust) patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime (Section 31)

b) Pose a significant threat to the integrity & operation of the digital systems on which the day-to-day business of the (Southern Health & Social Care Trust) relies (Section 43).

Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime.

Section 40 (2) – Personal information

We are not obliged, under section 40 (2) of the Act, to provide information that is the personal information of another person if releasing would contravene any of the provisions in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). In this instance we believe that the release of this information would contravene the first data protection principle and therefore section 40 (2) is engaged.

3. Corporate Procurement Strategy that covers 2023/24 and more.

- See attached the Southern Health & Social Care Trust corporate procurement strategy (2021-2024).

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