

FOI – 1669

24th May 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can your authority provide annual data on hospitalisations related to dog attacks (or more specifically, dog bites) in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area between 2008 and 2022? If so, can you include age range, gender and locations (including health boards) of those who were hospitalised due to dog attacks between those years?

Please see attached spreadsheet.

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 redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted 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