

FOI - 1713

20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

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**Please include the following information:**

- **Whether any events have been organised for Pride month. If so please provide the date, start and end time, and title/topic of the event**

*Response:*

*As an inclusive employer we have in place an annual Diversity & Inclusion Calendar which highlights key dates when we will raise awareness by celebrating diversity and inclusion. The calendar aims to provide staff with an insight into upcoming equality and diversity days and to assist us as a Trust, in celebrating events in accordance with the regional HSC values by ensuring our services and facilities provide shared, safe spaces and are considered inclusive, welcoming and accessible to everyone. As part of Pride, we will raise awareness of Belfast Pride at the end of July this year.*

*No events have been formally organised yet at this stage, however we plan to do some awareness raising in accordance with our Diversity & Inclusion calendar and under Section 75 Equality and Good Relations duties. These plans include: highlighting the Rainbow Badge Initiative, hosting some short awareness sessions on LGBTQ+ issues and participating with regional HSC colleagues in the Pride event in Belfast to highlight HSC as an equal, diverse and inclusive employer.*

- **Whether any LGBT themed merchandise has been purchased for Pride month. i.e. since the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year. If so please provide me with information on what has been purchased and the cost**

*No merchandise has been purchased to date.*