

Our Reference: SPFT FOI 21/22-007

Date: 21 April 2021

Vanessa Fillis

By email: [vanessafillis.journalism@gmail.com](mailto:vanessafillis.journalism@gmail.com)

**Corporate Governance Team**

Trust Headquarters

Swandean

Arundel Road

Worthing

West Sussex

BN13 3EP

Tel: 0300 304 0100

Email: [FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

Our publication scheme [\[link\]](#)

Dear Vanessa

## REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I refer to your original request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), received by us on **7 April 2021** which reads as follows:

I would like to request, under the freedom of information act, the following information for adult mental health services in Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

1. The number of nurses or support workers who support patients regarding their housing while they are inpatient in a mental health unit. These could be housing officers, housing support workers, special housing nurses, or similar professions that are specialised in housing support.
2. The protocol for discharging homeless patients or patients who face homelessness after their discharge. Please provide a document with the discharge policy or, if there is no document, please state what the protocol is.
3. The number of nurses or support workers who support mental health patients regarding their housing while they are in the community. These could be housing officers, housing support workers, special housing nurses, or similar professions that are specialised in housing support.

This letter provides the Trust's response to your request.

## THE TRUST'S RESPONSE

Under the Act, the Trust has two duties to individuals requesting information: firstly, to confirm whether or not it holds the information requested and secondly to provide a copy of that information. The Trust must comply with both of these duties, unless one of the exemptions contained within the Act applies.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, the Trust can confirm that it holds part of information relevant to your request and this has been provided where possible below.

Chair: Peter Molyneux

Chief Executive: Samantha Allen

Head office: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Swandean, Arundel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3EP

[www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](http://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

A teaching trust of Brighton and Sussex Medical School

1. This information is not available as we are unable to quantify the number of inpatient staff involved in providing housing advice / support to patients who are of no fixed abode as the roles are varied and not dedicated to this task. This can comprise of multi-disciplinary primary worker professionals and social work staff. All inpatient staff would provide some support but to different extents depending on their role and knowledge. Every patient is allocated a primary worker upon admission.

In the event of a patient being of no fixed abode, the mental health and risk assessment will inform how best to arrange accommodation on discharge. This may include referral to the local Council's Homeless Persons Unit or a local Third Sector provider of temporary accommodation.

2. The Trust's policies and procedures are publicly available via the publication scheme [\[link\]](#)

Publicly available acute inpatient mental health service operational policies can be found here [\[link\]](#)

3. This information is not available as we are unable to quantify the number of community staff involved in providing housing advice / support to patients who are of no fixed abode as the roles are varied and not dedicated to this task. This can comprise of care co-ordinators / lead practitioners / support workers / social care staff.

All patients in secondary care services will be allocated a lead practitioner and there are two levels of care - Standard and CPA (Care Programme Approach).

Publicly available Standard and CPA policies can be found here [\[link\]](#)

## RE-USE OF INFORMATION

To comply with the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations (2005), this information is provided to you under the Open Government Licence (OGL). This licence does not grant you any right to use the Information in a way that suggests any official status or that Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust endorses you or your use of the Information. The re-use of this information indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions as set out in the Open Government Licence [\[link\]](#)

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## **FURTHER QUERIES**

Should you have any general questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly by email at [FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, the Trust has an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. A request for an internal review should be submitted in writing to Ian Genner, FOI Officer at the above address or by email to [FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review procedure, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner, who will consider whether the Trust has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the Trust to remedy any problems.

You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's website at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Complaints to the Information Commissioner should be sent to:

First Contact Team  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
Wilmslow, Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Please remember to quote our FOI reference number which can be found at the top of this letter in any future correspondence.

I do hope you find the information provided helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Genner**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**  
On behalf of the Corporate Governance Team