

12 April 2023

Social Worker Recruitment, Computers & Offices

Pursuant to the Trust's response to FOI/28754.

- 1. Therefore, can you tell me the date when this record was created, i.e was it created before or after my enquiry, or as a response to my enquiry?**
- 2. Is it correct that at the time of writing there are four rooms allocated to social services within RBHSC, one just inside the Falls Road entrance to the hospital which is a general admin and duty office for social work staff, 2 more offices on the first floor above the oncology outpatients' area where one is a social services team room and the other the Senior Social Worker's office, and another office further into the hospital and in an around an area close to the bottom of the stairway from Paul ward to the floor below?**
- 3. Is it true that each individual social worker generally uses the same computer from Monday to Friday that might be regarded as their own particular workstation? This information can be gleaned from log in details from IT which is recorded.**
- 4. Is computer name BFTPC220893 a computer owned by BHSCT?**
- 5. If it is, has it been used exclusively, or virtually exclusively by the same staff member over the last number of months?**
- 6. If it has, has it been used by a band 6 social worker?**
- 7. Is that computer in the room used by social services around the bottom of the stairway leading to Paul ward?**
- 8. At the time of writing, is it the only computer in that room?**
- 9. Is this computer the same computer that was used by the previous Senior Social Worker, now retired, who used this room as her office?**
- 10. Has a single staff member exclusively, or virtually exclusively used this office since the retirement of the Senior Social Worker? Again I would suggest that this information can be gleaned from the log in record of this computer.**
- 11. Moving on, can you confirm that a social worker has now been appointed to the Brain Tumour post referred to in my previous Freedom of Information Request?**

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12. Can you confirm that the appointee was not appointed as a result of an interview for this specific post but rather was taken off a waiting list for generic social work posts that was created as a result of regional interviews?

13. If this answer to 12 is yes can you confirm that social work posts are offered with regard to both the place on the waiting list social workers are and also in relation to the specific Health Trusts that social workers prefer to work in, and a particular area or specialism within that area? For example, a candidate may be matched to the Children's Hospital if they specifically stated in regional interview that they wished to work in the Children's Hospital?

14. Can you tell me what was the specific criteria that enabled BHSCT to match it to a person on the Regional waiting list to the person who was appointed to the Brain Tumour Post?

15. On what basis was the brain tumour post offered to the person who was appointed, was it offered on the same terms as in the internal trawl where the post had been advertised, i.e. was it offered as an "Acting social worker, where the appointee was able to retain his/her current post while acting, and was it offered on a temporary basis for 6 months with the possibility of an extension as it had been in the internal trawl, or was it offered as a permanent post where the appointee needed to resign his/her previous post?

16. While job descriptions for Senior social workers and social workers are not definitive, are there clauses or articles in Trust policies or procedures that empower/authorise social workers at these levels to engage with organisations outside the Trust to create business plans to create new posts within the Trust?

17. If the answer to question 16 is "no" can you tell me at what level someone is empowered to negotiate/create a new post for a service?

18. In answer to question 17, was the correct procedure for the creation of a new post followed, i.e. was it instigated at the correct level for approval?

19. Have the normal conditions that "canvassing automatically disqualifies a person from obtaining a particular post" been applied in this case?

Your request has now been considered by Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 and we would advise that this will not be processed any further for the reasons set out below.

We have reached a decision to aggregate these requests on the basis that your requests and others are clearly linked and there is an overarching theme or common thread running between the requests in terms of the nature of the information that has been requested and the timing. In coming to this decision, we have referred to the Information Commissioner's guidance on "Requests where the cost of compliance with a request exceeds the appropriate limit" and Section 12(4) of the Act which states that,

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where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority by one person, or by different persons who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, relate to the same or similar information, received within 60 days of each other, the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

We have spent 18 hours locating, retrieving and extracting information to a similar FOI request of the same nature (28754) and to fulfil this request would necessitate a manual interrogation of data which would involve a significant number of hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

In accordance with Section 12(1) of the FOI Act, the Trust is not obliged to comply with any request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 (ie.18 hours at £25 per hour plus disbursements).

In accordance with the FOI Act 2000 this acts as a Refusal Notice.