

6 September 2023

Social Work Office (Follow-up Question to FOI/29552)

This is an FOI request in relation to a previous FOI request (FOI/29552) when I asked whether an individual social worker within the RBHSC had exclusive use of a room and you responded with the following commentary:

"The Trust is aware that one of the rooms allocated to the service was networked for two desktops. While one PC was installed and therefore in use, the second PC which had been on order since 25 October 2022 had not been delivered/connected at the point when the Trust responded to FOI/28754 on 16 February 2023. The Trust can therefore confirm this room is not exclusively assigned to one staff member."

Under the Freedom of Information Act can you clarify the following points? "The Trust is aware that one of the rooms allocated to the Service was networked for two desktops":

- 1. When did the room become networked for two desktops, given that the previous SSW who resigned in August 2022 used this as her private office?**

We are unable to provide a date for when the room was networked as neither the service, hospital site nor Belfast Trust IT Department retain records pertaining to this.

- 2. In determining what/which social workers should use this office in the interim, what criteria was used.**

No criteria was applied for the use of this office following the resignation of the SSW.

- 3. Was this a private arrangement/agreement between the SSW and SW who came to occupy that office from the time the SSW resigned until today's date or was this the subject of a team discussion who should occupy this office?**

As above, no criteria was applied for the use of this room following the resignation of the SSW. The use of the room is and continues to be available to all staff in the service.

- 4. Were any of the social work team, apart from the SSW and the SW who came to occupy this office, involved in the decision making as to who should occupy this office?**

Senior management are not aware of any formal decision making linked to who from the service area could use the room. It remains the view of management that this room is available to all those in the service.

6 September 2023

- 5. Did the social worker who came to occupy this office after the SSW resigned have a substantive post as a social worker in the RBHSC at that time?**

There are less than 5 staff within the RBHSC who did not have a substantive post at the time of the SSW resignation.

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as this could make individuals personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

- 6. How many social workers had a substantive post in the RBHSC at the time that the SSW left the office and it became occupied by the social worker who currently occupies it?**

There were 7 social workers with substantive posts when the SSW resigned.