



Patient and Client Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 12 -22 Linenhall Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8BS

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**By Email**

**Ref: FOI 2639**

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in response to your Freedom of Information request received by the Patient and Client Council (PCC) on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in which you requested information in regards to the letter to SOAS - consultation on permanent change to EGS July 25.

Please find the response below and attached.

- Can I ask before and in the planning of the Department of Health's "Hospital Network for Northern Ireland Consultation", what PCC involvement there was -(similarly as you did speak of meeting WHSCT) to provide early advice on best practice approaches to public involvement and engagement, in line with PCC statutory remit.**

Please find as attached emails. Please also note that some information has been redacted in accordance within Schedule 2, Part 3, Paragraph 16 of the Data Protection Act 2018. In these circumstances, this relates to third party information which is considered exempt (" Protection of the rights of others").

- Can we have all communications between the Department of Health and the PCC on consultation**

Please find as attached. Please also note that some information has been redacted in accordance within Schedule 2, Part 3, Paragraph 16 of the Data Protection Act 2018. In these circumstances, this relates to third party information which is considered exempt (" Protection of the rights of others").

- **Can I also ask if there has been any follow up communication since the launch of the consultation with regard to the way in which it was run.**

No

- **This should include but not be specifically limited to the frequency and location of public meetings, rurality aspects and equality aspects of the consultation.**

**Can I also ask did you receive a final version of all consultation documentation before it was launched?**

No

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the PCC, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to The Business Services Organisation (BSO), which provides an Information Governance service on our behalf:

Post: Information Governance Manager,  
2 Franklin Street,  
Belfast,  
BT2 8DQ

Email: [foi.bso@hscni.net](mailto:foi.bso@hscni.net)

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PCC has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland  
10th Floor  
Causeway Tower  
9 James Street South  
Belfast  
BT2 8DN

Telephone: 0303 123 1114

Email: [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Una McKernan".

Úna McKernan  
Head of Operations