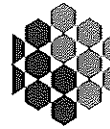


FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Edwin Poots MLA



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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Mr Roy Beggs MLA
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Our Ref: COR/1896/2011

12 January 2012

Dear Roy

Thank you for your email of 2 December regarding the numbers of people registered blind or partially sighted in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area.

In your email you raised concerns that the figures provided in my response to your recent Written Assembly Question on this topic indicated that the South Eastern Trust area has a disproportionately large number of young people registered as blind or partially sighted.

My officials contacted the South Eastern Trust about this matter. On investigation it has emerged that the data provided by the South Eastern Trust to my Department contained elements of duplication, and therefore was inaccurate. The Trust has apologised for this error.

Please also accept my apologies for the inconvenience this may have caused you. A revised response to your Assembly Question is attached as an appendix to this letter.

I trust this answers your query.

Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE FOR ANSWER: 17 October 2011

ORDINARY WRITTEN No: AQW 2741/11-15

Roy Beggs (East Antrim): To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) adults; and (ii) young people are registered blind or partially sighted in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

Edwin Poots

Information on the number of people registered as blind or partially sighted is not collected centrally, but is recorded by each Health & Social Care (HSC) Trust. The information provided by the five HSC Trusts is detailed in the table below.

Number of Adults and Young People Registered Blind or Partially Sighted in each HSC Trust at 3 October 2011¹

HSC Trust	Persons Registered Blind or Partially Sighted	
	(i) Adults (Aged 19+)	(ii) Young People (Aged 0-18)
Belfast	1,939	19
Northern	1,387	63
South Eastern	1,075	21
Southern	1,440	111
Western	753	51
Northern Ireland	6,594	265

¹ The information recorded by HSC Trusts is not a register of all blind or partially sighted people as some may refuse to have their names added to relevant HSC Trust records.

 Signed and approved by the Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety

Date: _____