

3 January 2024

Our Ref: FOI 381

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Trust Referrals to Private Hospitals**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above, which you requested on 20 November 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Surgery Elective Maternity and Paediatrics Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Keith McCollum
Information Governance Team

Q1. How many referrals have the Trust made to private hospitals in the last five years? (1st Jan 2019-31st December 2023)

A1. See Table 1 (below) in respect of Trust Referrals for Financial Years 2019/20 to 2023/24

Q2. How much has this cost? Please break it down by year if possible and if it's not possible, then just the last year.

A2. See Table 1 (below) in respect of Trust Referral Costs for Financial Years 2019/20 to 2023/24

Table 1

	*Number of 1st Outpatients	Number of Inpatients/Day cases			Spend
Financial Year	New	Inpatient	Day Case	Additional Theatre Capacity	Sub Total
2019/20	2,544		3,845		£4,017,704
2020/21	3,376	6	4,636	68	£6,184,972
2021/22	7,276	163	7,418		£8,226,074
2022/23	6,681		8,171		£10,203,670
2023/24	5,027	27	5,349		£7,978,939

**1st OP New – Excludes Diagnostics*