

20 January 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 270

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Hospital installed base of X-ray systems**

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 15 October 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to questions 1a, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2d, 2e, 3a, 3d & 3e has been provided by the Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatric Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

In relation to questions 1b, 1c, 1f, 2b, 2c, 2f, 3b, 3c & 3f I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested in questions 1b, 1c, 1f, 2b, 2c, 2f, 3b, 3c & 3f is exempt from release under Section 31, Section 38 and Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

These are all qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

- a) (Section 31) Leave the Trust patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime
- b) (Section 38) permits the withholding of information if there is a risk to Health and Safety of Individuals within the Trust. To withhold there must be a likelihood of endangerment to the physical or mental health of any individual
- c) (Section 43) Pose a significant threat to the integrity & operation of the digital systems on which the day-to-day business of the Trust relies

Cont'd..

## Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

**Section 31(1)(a)** states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime

## Section 38 – Health and safety

**Section 38 states** that as a security attack may lead to the placing of patient and client information into the public domain, the release of the requested information could potentially lead to harm for a number of patients (in a mental health context or may lead to physical harm)

The Trust believes there is a link between the risk endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. There would likely be a substantial detrimental effect on the physical or mental health of patients and clients, should the requested information be released

## Section 43 – Commercial Interests

**Section 43(2)** states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). Disclosure of the requested information would leave the (name of organisation's) digital infrastructure at significant risk of cyber security attack. This would compromise the Trust ability to provide Health & Care Services and carry-on business-as usual should the digital systems be compromised.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of questions 1b, 1c, 1f, 2b, 2c, 2f, 3b, 3c & 3f.

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](mailto: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.

Cont'd..

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**

***I am seeking information on for all installed Xray Systems:-***

***Xray Rooms/Systems, to include, Mammography, Dental, Fluoroscopy, Interventional and plain diagnostic;***

***Q1a. How many X-ray systems/rooms are installed across the hospitals?***

***Q1d. How old is the installed X-ray system?***

***Q1e. Is there a service maintenance contract in place for the installed X-ray system?***

A1a. See Table 1 below in respect of Xray Rooms/Systems

A1d See Table 1 below

A1e See Table 1 below

Table 1

<b>Xray Rooms/Systems</b>	<b>Response</b>
How many X-ray systems/rooms are installed across the hospitals?	25
How old is the installed X-ray system?	Oldest is 15 years
Is there a service maintenance contract in place for the installed X-ray system?	Yes

### ***Mobile Xray Systems***

***Q2a. How many mobile X-ray systems are installed across the hospitals?***

***Q2d. How old is the mobile X-ray system?***

***Q2e. Is there a service maintenance contract in place for the installed mobile X-ray system?***

A2a. See Table 1 below in respect of Mobile Xray Systems

A2d See Table 1 below

A2e See Table 1 below

Table 2

<b>Mobile Xray Systems</b>	<b>Response</b>
How many mobile X-ray systems are installed across the hospitals?	7
How old is the mobile X-ray system?	Oldest is 7 years
Is there a service maintenance contract in place for the installed mobile X-ray system?	Yes

***Cont'd..***

**DEXA BMD**

**Q3a. How many DEXA systems/rooms are installed across the hospitals?**

**Q3d. How old is the installed DEXA system?**

**Q3e. Is there a service maintenance contract in place for the installed DEXA system?**

A3a. See Table 1 below in respect of DEXA BMD

A3d See Table 1 below

A3e See Table 1 below

Table 3

<b>DEXA BMD</b>	<b>Response</b>
How many DEXA systems/rooms are installed across the hospitals?	2
How old is the installed DEXA system?	Oldest is 4 years
Is there a service maintenance contract in place for the installed DEXA system?	Yes