



2 December 2024

Our Ref: FOI 329

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Wheeled Walking Frames / Zimmer Frames**

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 4 November 2024.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Primary Care and Older People 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. *What is the process for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust purchasing/acquiring wheeled walking frames/zimmer frames?*

A1. Wheeled walking frames/zimmer frames are ordered from Business Services Organisation (BSO).

Q2. *How often are wheeled walking frames/zimmer frames purchased/acquired by South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust?*

A2. Departments across the Trust will typically replenish their stores from Business Services Organisation (BSO) weekly.

Q3. *Do the individual Trusts purchase walking frames/zimmer frames separately or together?*

A3. BSO purchase frames centrally for the region to allow Trusts to draw on their stock.

Q4. *Who/what department within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area has responsibility for purchasing/acquiring wheeled walking frames/zimmer frames?*

A4. Appropriate Physiotherapy Departments will take responsibility for ordering frames to stock their local stores.

Q5. *Do the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust use single or double crossbar wheeled walking frames/zimmer frames?*

A5. All standard stock frames are single crossbar.

Q6. *Approximately how many wheeled walking frames have been issued by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to individuals annually from 2020 to 2024?*

A6. During this time period, 11,369 frames have been ordered by the Trust.

Q7. *Who in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust are responsible for issuing walking frames to individuals?*

A7. Typically, Physiotherapists will issue walking frames.