



11 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 388

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Alcohol and Drug Admissions**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 25 November 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Medicine, Unscheduled Care and Cancer Services 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

The first two requests relate to alcohol and drugs related admissions to hospitals in Northern Ireland each year between 2020 and 2024 (or the latest year for which you have statistics).

Q1. The number of alcohol-related admissions involving patients aged 19 and under between the years (above) including breakdown of gender and age.

A1. Based on clinically coded diagnosis of inpatient admissions within Trust hospitals relating to alcohol poisoning. The latest available figures are to end May 2024 due to clinical coding time lag.

Please see Table 1 for the number of alcohol related attendances for female patients aged 19 and under from 2020 to 2024.

Please see Table 2 for the number of alcohol related attendances for male patients aged 19 and under from 2020 to 2024.

Table 1

Female	Year				
Age	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
12	<5	Nil	<5	<5	Nil
13	Nil	<5	<5	6	Nil
14	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
15	5	<5	<5	<5	Nil
16	<5	<5	Nil	<5	<5
17	<5	<5	20	Nil	Nil
18	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
19	<5	<5	<5	<5	Nil

Table 2

Male	Year				
Age	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<5
13	<5	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil
14	<5	<5	<5	Nil	Nil
15	Nil	<5	<5	<5	Nil
16	<5	Nil	<5	<5	Nil
17	<5	<5	<5	<5	Nil
18	<5	<5	<5	Nil	Nil
19	<5	8	Nil	<5	<5

Please note, within Tables 1 to 6, where numbers are 1-4, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

Please note, within Table 1 to 4, it is possible that the same patient is counted more than once between if they have admissions relating to both drug and alcohol and the same patient may have been admitted more than once.

Q2. The number of drug (either illegal or prescription)- related admissions involving patients aged 19 and under between the years (above) including breakdown of gender and age.

A2. Based on clinically coded diagnosis of inpatient admissions within Trust hospitals relating to drug poisoning or overdose both intentional and unintentional. The latest available figures are to end May 2024 due to clinical coding time lag.

Please see Table 3 for the number of drug poisoning or overdose related admissions for female patients aged 19 and under from 2020 to 2024.

Please see Table 4 for the number of drug poisoning or overdoses related admissions for male patients aged 19 and under from 2020 to 2024.

Table 3

Female Age	Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
0-1	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1	<5	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil
2	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	<5	Nil	<5	Nil	Nil
4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	<5	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11	<5	Nil	<5	<5	Nil
12	Nil	<5	<5	<5	Nil
13	<5	5	5	11	Nil
14	10	8	15	6	<5
15	11	20	13	10	<5
16	5	16	8	7	<5
17	10	10	13	6	Nil
18	<5	5	5	7	<5
19	9	6	6	<5	<5

Table 4

Male Age	Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
0-1	Nil	Nil	<5	<5	Nil
1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil	Nil
3	Nil	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil	Nil
6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	Nil	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil

9	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil	Nil
10	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11	Nil	Nil	<5	<5	Nil
12	<5	Nil	<5	Nil	<5
13	Nil	<5	Nil	<5	Nil
14	<5	<5	<5	<5	Nil
15	5	<5	<5	<5	Nil
16	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
17	5	<5	6	6	Nil
18	<5	<5	<5	Nil	<5
19	5	16	<5	5	<5

Q3. The second request relates to the number of those aged 19 and under who were treated in emergency departments for alcohol or drugs intoxication between the years 2020 and 2024 (or the latest year for which you have statistics) including breakdown of gender and age.

A3. Please be advised, in relation to the number of patients treated in the Emergency Departments (ED), for alcohol or drugs intoxication, the Trust is unable to provide the data separated by alcohol and drugs as the information within the ED Service is not recorded in this way.

The requested breakdown of information is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of question 3 and the request for a breakdown by alcohol and drug related treated patients.

Please see Table 5 for the total number of female patients treated in ED for alcohol or drugs intoxication aged 19 and under from 2020 to 2024.

Please see Table 6 for the total number of male patients treated in ED for alcohol or drugs intoxication aged 19 and under from 2020 to 2024.

Table 5

Female Age	Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
2	Nil	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil
12	<5	<5	Nil	Nil	Nil
13	<5	Nil	<5	Nil	Nil
14	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

15	<5	5	<5	10	<5
16	<5	6	<5	8	<5
17	<5	11	9	8	6
18	8	5	8	12	5
19	7	<5	6	7	8

Table 6

Male Age	Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11	Nil	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil
12	Nil	Nil	Nil	<5	Nil
13	<5	<5	Nil	<5	Nil
14	<5	Nil	<5	<5	Nil
15	5	<5	<5	6	<5
16	7	<5	<5	6	<5
17	8	<5	6	12	5
18	<5	<5	7	11	7
19	12	11	7	16	8