

6 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 466

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Hospital Beds**

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 9 January 2025.

A response to the question you have raised has been provided by the Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer 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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

Q1. The number of hospital beds in the Trust decommissioned or removed from use between January 1 2024 and November 30 2024?

Would it be possible to get the figures broken down by acute and community hospital beds?

A1. During the period 1st January 2024 and 30 November 2024, there have been no reduction in the number of funded adult hospital beds across the three Trust sites.

Within Paediatric In-patient beds, there was a temporary reduction of eight beds due to staffing availability. These beds have since become available again in January 2025.

Within the community in-patient ward there has been a reduction of two beds during this period.