



26 February 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1005

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in relation to Fast Tracking Continuing Healthcare**

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 17 February 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Unscheduled Care, Medicine & 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](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.

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

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Officer**

- Q1. In the following calendar years, how many referrals of any form were made to the Trust for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?**
- 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Q2. How many of the referrals in question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the Trust? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:**
- 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Q3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate?**
- Q4. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed by a) The referrer, or b) The patient/their family. Please provide figures for the following calendar years:**
- 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Q5. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:**
- 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Q6. In the following calendar years, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?**
- 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Q7. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned? Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days.**
- 2022
  - 2023
  - 2024
- Q8. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the**

**completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place? Please provide the answer days.**

- 2022
- 2023
- 2024

**Q9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support?**

**As part of this, please could you explain:**

- **The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?)**
- **Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the Trust before being granted? Please explain this process if so.**
- **Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support?**

A. In response to questions 1 to 9, I can confirm that Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare is not applicable in Northern Ireland and therefore there is no information to provide.