



8 July 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1078

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Mental Ill Health Patients Presenting to A&E**

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 24 March 2025. 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 Planning, Performance & Informatics, Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer Services and Adult Services & Prison Healthcare Directorates 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

Q1. How many patients presented at your largest Emergency Department with mental ill health (psychiatric, psychological, and/or behavioural disturbances/changes) as the primary issue each year between and including 2019 to 2025? Please include data up to the end of February 2025.

A1. Please see Table 1 for the number of patients presenting to the Ulster Emergency Department (ED) where the notes at triage has recorded any of the following; deliberate self-harm, suicidal or suicide, overdose, poisoning (excluding food), self-harm, psychiatric, ideation or mental, from January 2019 to February 2025.

Please note that due to the coding system the Trust cannot identify the primary issue presenting as mental ill health on admission.

Table 1

Year	No. of Presentations
2019	2836
2020	3023
2021	3509
2022	3181
2023	2777*
2024	1789
2025 (to February)	303

*Due to the implementation of the new data system in November 2023, which replaced the previous ED registration processes, data may not be directly comparable.

Q2. How many patients identified in question 1 waited more than 12 hours for transfer to a bed in a mental health unit after a decision to admit? Please provide year by year data between and including 2019 to 2025, and include data up to the end of February 2025.

A2. Please see Table 2 for the number of patients waiting for over 12 hours within the Ulster ED for a Mental Health admission, from May 2023 to February 2025.

Please note that the Trust Mental Health service only started to collate the requested information from May 2023, therefore information prior to this is not available.

Table 2

Month	2023	2024	2025
January	N/A*	6	8
February	N/A*	<5	9
March	N/A*	<5	
April	N/A*	10	
May	9	5	
June	12	8	
July	7	6	
August	7	<5	
September	7	Nil	
October	5	7	
November	Nil	6	
December	Nil	8	

*Where numbers are 1-4, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

Q3. How many incidents of physical violence carried out towards staff by all patients were reported each year between and including 2019 to 2025 in your largest Emergency Department? Please include data up to the end of February 2025.

A3. Please see Table 3 for the number of incidents of physical violence carried out towards staff by patients within the Ulster ED from 2019 to February 2025.

Table 3

Year	No. of Incidents
01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019	18
01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020	31
01/01/2021 – 31/12/2021	46
01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022	61
01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023	28
01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024	27
01/01/2025 – 28/02/2025	16

Please note, all incidents of violence against other parties have been excluded from the data within Table 3.