



17 July 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1258

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Reporting Times within Radiology**

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 June 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatric 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

I would like to request the following information, specifically for chest X-rays performed at Ards X-ray Department during May 2025.

Q1. *The total number of chest X-rays performed at Ards X-ray Department in May 2025.*

A1. A total of 327 chest X-rays were performed in Ards Hospital in May 2025.

Q2. *The average time taken for chest X-rays performed at Ards X-ray Department in May 2025 to be reported by a radiologist.*

A2. The average time taken for chest X-rays at Ards Hospital in May 2025 was 25 days.

Q3. *The shortest and longest reporting times for chest X-rays taken at Ards X-ray Department in May 2025.*

A3. The shortest time taken, in May 2025, was within the same day. For the longest time taken, there are 4 chest X-rays from 30th May 2025 that are currently not reported.

Q4. *The number and percentage of chest X-rays reported within each of the following timeframes:*

- ***24 hours***
- ***48 hours***
- ***7 days***
- ***More than 7 days***

A4. Please see Table 1 for the number and percentage of chest X-rays reported within the requested timeframes.

Table 1

| Timeframe | No. of Exams/X-rays | Percentage |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 24 Hours | 10 | 3.1% |
| 48 Hours | 4 | 1.24% |
| 7 Days | 12 | 3.72% |
| More than 7 Days | 297 | 91.95% |

Q5. If available, a breakdown of reporting times for routine versus urgent chest X-rays.

A5. Please see Table 2 for the reporting times for routine and urgent chest X-rays.

Table 2

| Timeframe | No. of Exams/X-rays | Percentage |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Routine | | |
| 24 Hours | 2 | 2.4% |
| 48 Hours | Nil | Nil |
| 7 Days | 5 | 6% |
| More than 7 Days | 77 | 91.7% |
| Urgent | | |
| 24 Hours | 6 | 4.9% |
| 48 Hours | 3 | 2.5% |
| 7 Days | 5 | 4.1% |
| More than 7 Days | 108 | 88.5% |

Q6. Whether any chest X-rays performed at Ards in May 2025 were outsourced for reporting to external providers, and, if so, the reporting times for those studies.

A6. There were no chest X-rays performed at Ards Hospital that were outsourced for reporting to external providers in May 2025.