

17 July 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1267

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Policy for Overweight or Obese Patients Under  
Consideration for Hip or Knee Replacement Surgery**

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 3 July 2025.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Surgery Elective Maternity and Paediatrics 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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**Olivia Robinson**  
**Information Governance Officer**

**Q1a. What is the content of any policy document or clinical referral protocol or guidance (henceforth abbreviated as 'policy') in current use in the Trust which describes whether patients living with overweight or obesity, who are under consideration or seeking referral for hip or knee replacement surgery, are subject to any of the following:**

- **A BMI threshold for referral to surgery or listing for surgery**
- **A requirement to accept referral or support for weight management ahead of surgical referral or listing for surgery**
- **A requirement to demonstrate attempted or successful weight loss ahead of surgical referral or listing for surgery**
- **Postponement or delay to their surgical referral or listing for surgery, whether or not the patient chooses to engage in weight management during that time.**

**Q1b. What was the start date for the policy?**

**Q1c. What is the planned review date for the policy?**

**Q1d. If no such policy is currently in place, are there plans for policy introduction?**

**Q1e. If there are plans for policy introduction, when would this be and of what content?**

A1a-e. The Trust are unable to provide a response to the questions you have asked as the Trust do not perform Elective Hip or Knee Surgery.