



10 July 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1263

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to the Prescribing of Anticoagulants**

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 27 June 2025.

A response to the question 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

Q1. I require information regarding the prescribing of the category of medication collectively known as anticoagulants, whether administered by the oral or parenteral route in the South- Eastern Health and Social Care Trust over the six years commencing 1st January 2018 and ending 31 December 2023 in those aged 0-44 years.

I require the information as the total number of prescriptions issued per quarter (three month period) in the specified years in those aged under 45 years on the date on which the prescription was issued. Oral anticoagulants include but are not limited to warfarin, clopidrogel, dipyridamole, phenindione, aspirin, apixaban, edoxaban, rivaroxaban etc.

Parenteral anticoagulants include but are not limited to heparin, dalteparin, enoxaparin, tinzaparin, argatroban, bivalirudin, dabigatran, urokinase, acenocoumarol etc.

A1. The Trust is unable to provide the requested information as prior to November 2023, before the implementation of the new digital system, the Trusts system did not record the information down to that level of detail.

From November 2023, after the implementation of the new digital system, the information requested is not centrally held in a way which is easily extracted. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice.