

6 October 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1398

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Colonoscopies**

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 9 September 2025.

A response to the questions you have raised has been provided by the Surgery, Elective Care, 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) 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

Olivia Robinson
Information Governance Officer

Q1. How many colonoscopies in the last year (between August 2024 - August 2025?) have been recorded as incomplete procedures?

A1. There have been 17 colonoscopies recorded as incomplete procedures in the last year, between August 2024 – August 2025.

Q2. What cost is spent on temporary staff to replace staff who are off sick on work sickness related absence?

A2. The Trust do not use temporary staff to replace staff who are off sick on work sickness related absence.

The endoscopy staff can cover the shifts that are short staffed.

Q3. Have any ergonomic or manual handling risk assessments been carried out specifically for endoscopy staff in the last 2 years?

A3. There have been no ergonomic or manual handling risk assessments carried out specifically for endoscopy staff in the last 2 years.

Q4. Have changes been made to endoscopy equipment or working practices following ergonomic assessments? If so what changes were made?

A4. There have been no changes made to endoscopy equipment or working practices following ergonomic assessments.

Q5. Is ergonomic or musculoskeletal injury prevention training provided to endoscopists? If so, how frequently?

A5. Self-learning takes place in the form of reading journals regarding ergonomic or musculoskeletal injury prevention for endoscopists in the Trust.

Q6. Are you currently using any form of equipment to assist with endoscope grip during colonoscopy? e.g. gauze

A6. Yes, some endoscopists in the Trust are currently using equipment such as gauzes to assist with endoscope grip during colonoscopy.