



3 September 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1335

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Lipoprotein Testing**

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 7 August 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding Lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)] testing at your Health and Social Care Trust:

- ***Ulster Hospital (Dundonald)***
- ***Lagan Valley Hospital (Lisburn)***
- ***Downe Hospital (Downpatrick)***

Q1. Does your Trust currently offer Lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)] blood testing? (Yes/No)

A1. Yes, the Trust currently offers Lipoprotein blood testing.

Q2. If yes, please provide the total number of Lp(a) tests requested or performed per year, for the last four financial years (2020–21 to 2023–24), broken down if possible as follows:

- a. Requested by primary care***
- b. Requested by secondary care (hospital clinics or inpatients)***

A2. The Trust is unable to provide the information for the requested time frame as Lipoprotein blood testing only started in the Ulster Hospital Laboratory in 2025.

Q3. If available, please provide the number of Lp(a) tests that returned a raised result, as defined locally (e.g. >125 nmol/L or >50 mg/dL), per year over the same period.

Q4. If available, please provide the number of unique patients tested for Lp(a) per year (i.e. not total test counts, but distinct individuals).

A3,4. In response to questions 3 and 4, the Trust is unable to provide the information for the requested timeframe, please refer to A1b.

Q5. If Lp(a) testing is not currently available at your Trust, do you refer these tests to an external laboratory or partner organisation? (Yes/No – please specify name of partner if possible)

A5. Prior to when the Ulster Hospital Laboratory started Lipoprotein blood testing in 2025, the Trust analysed testing at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.