



11 September 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1339

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Air Pollution Exposure**

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 12 August 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics 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

Please provide the following information, broken down by month, between January 2020 and July 2025 inclusive. If this is not possible, please instead provide it broken down by calendar year, 2020 to 2025 inclusive.

**Q1. The number of times a patient was admitted where exposure to air pollution (International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) code Z581)* was recorded as a contributing factor to the admission.
(* I understand this is the code used by NHS trusts to log exposure to air pollution, but if your trust uses a different code or some other system, please still provide the relevant data)**

A1. Please see Table 1 for the total number of times a patient was admitted where exposure to air pollution was recorded as a contributing factor to their admission from January 2020 to October 2024.

*Please be advised, due to low numbers and the detail requested within question 1, the Trust is unable to provide the requested information broken down by month or year, as this could potentially risk identification of individual patients.

Please note, due to the time lag of clinical coding the latest available data is up to October 2024.

Table 1

Timeframe	No. of Admissions
2020 to 2024	39

**Q1a. If possible, please tell me what the primary diagnosis was for each of these admissions.
(For clarity, I want to know total numbers admitted with each primary diagnosis — for example, if 45 people were admitted with a primary diagnosis of asthma where exposure to air pollution was identified as a contributing factor.)**

A1a. Please see Table 2 for the primary diagnosis of patients admitted where exposure to air pollution was recorded as a contributing factor to their admission between January 2020 and October 2024.

*As per A1, due to the low numbers, the Trust is unable to provide the number of patients treated, broken down by primary diagnosis.

Table 2

Primary Diagnosis
Cardiac Arrest With Successful Resuscitation

Chronic Obstruct Pulmonary Dis With Acute Lower Respiratory Infection
Dyspnoea
Hyper osmolality And Hybernatraemia
Mesothelioma Of Pleura
Other And Unspecified Convulsions
Pain in Limb
Dizziness And Giddiness
Iron Deficiency Anaemia ,Unspecified
Pleural Effusion Not Elsewhere Classified
Alcoholic Cirrhosis Of Liver
Chronic Obstruct Pulmonary Dis With Acute Lower Respiratory Infection
Influenza Other Respiratory Manife Seasonal Flu Virus Ident
Interstitial Pulmonary Disease, Unspecified
Mental And Behavioural Disorders Due To Use Of Alcohol
Open Wound Of Head, Part Unspecified
Tendency To Fall, Not Elsewhere Classified
Tubulo-Interstitial Nephritis Not Spec As Acute Or Chronic
Acute Renal Failure ,Unspecified
Lobar Pneumonia ,Unspecified
Pneumonia Unspecified
Secondary Malignant Neoplasm Of Pleura
Unspecified Haematuria
Urinary Tract Infection Site Not Specified
Acute sub endo cardiac myocardial infarction
Alcoholic liver disease, unspecified
Bronchiectasis
Cataract, unspecified
Chronicobstructivepulmonarydiseasewithacutelowerrespiratoryinfection
Fracture of bone following insertion of orthopaedic implant, joint prosthesis, or bone plate
Fracture of neck of femur closed
Malignant neoplasm of kidney, except renal pelvis
Orthostatic hypotension
Other bacterial infections of unspecified site
Retention of urine

Q2. Please tell me how many of the patients in question 1 subsequently died in hospital.

A2. Please see Table 3 for the number of patients, referred to in question 1, who died in hospital.

Table 5

Year	No. of Deaths
2020	<5
2024	<5

Please note where numbers in individual cells are given as <5 within Table 1, in line with Trust policy, the data is aggregated to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.