



18 September 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1364

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Cancer Wait Lists**

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 19 August 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Medicine, Unscheduled Care and Cancer 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 would like to know how many patients with a referral for suspected cancer are currently waiting for an appointment. If possible I would like this broken down into the type of cancer.

A1. Please see Table 1 for the number of patients with a referral for suspected cancer currently waiting for an appointment, broken down by cancer type.

Table 1

Tumour Site	No. of Patients
Lung	42
Haematological	38
Upper Gastrointestinal (GI)	215
Lower GI	284
Skin	1611
Gynaecological	726
Brain/Central Nervous System (CNS)	13
Urological	261
Head & Neck	152
Sarcoma	1

Q2. I would like to know the longest someone has currently been on the waiting list after being referred with a possible cancer diagnosis, and I would like to know the type of cancer they are suspected to have.

A2. The longest waiting patient was referred on 07/08/2024 for suspected skin cancer. However, this is due to cancellations and Did Not Attends (DNA).

Q3. For people that have been diagnosed I would like to know the average wait time for treatment to begin. If possible I would like this broken down into a type of cancer. I would like this data for 2021/22, 2022/23, 23/24 and 25 years to date.

- A3. Please see Table 2 for the average wait time, in days, for patients who have been diagnosed for treatment to begin, broken down by cancer type from 2021 to 2025.

Table 2

Tumour Site	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Acute Leukaemia	2	18	23	55
Brain/CNS	9	1	Nil	Nil
Breast Cancer	24	20	33	57
Endocrine	18	Nil	Nil	Nil
Gynaecological	61	73	104	156
Haematological	18	18	31	85
Head/Neck	51	51	60	94
Hepatobiliary/Pancreatic	23	23	30	95
Lower GI	34	46	57	101
Lung	15	22	24	95
Sarcomas	35	37	25	82
Skin	64	63	74	99
Testicular	18	34	10	23
Thyroid	35	9	65	86
Upper GI	37	41	43	77
Urological	83	106	119	147

- Q4. For people who have had a cancer diagnosis I would like to know, currently, what is the longest someone has been waiting for treatment and the cancer they have been diagnosed with?**

A4. The longest waiting time is currently 513 days for skin cancer.

- Q5. For the years 2021/22, 2022/23, 23/24 and 25 years to date I would like to know how many patients have passed away while waiting to start treatment for their cancer diagnosis.**

A5. The information requested is not held on a central information system. 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 in respect of question 5.