



20 August 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1279

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Mental Health Services Referrals and Waiting Times**

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 10 July 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 Adult Services & Prison Healthcare 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. Please provide data on mental health service (a) referrals and (b) waiting times in your Trust area for the period January 1, 2020 to the most recent available date, broken down by the following age groups (or closest equivalent held):

- **17 years old and under**
- **18–24 years**
- **25–44 years**
- **45–64 years**
- **65 years and over**

A1a. Please see Table 1 – Mental Health Referrals from 01/01/2020 to 31/07/2025.

Please note that due to the implementation of the Trusts new data system in November 2023, for 2023 the figures were collated from two different systems and therefore split below.

Table 1

Years	Referrals	17 Years & Under	18 – 24 Years	25 – 44 Years	45 – 64 Years	65 Years & Older
2020	No. Received	63	1,850	3,458	1,973	196
	No. Accepted	39	1,572	2,906	1,655	130
2021	No. Received	68	2,069	3,968	2,231	196
	No. Accepted	49	1,660	3,267	1,630	136
2022	No. Received	70	1,948	4,144	2,190	184
	No. Accepted	43	1,656	3,547	1,786	139
Up to end of October 2023	No. Received	50	1,583	3,837	2,016	220
	No. Accepted	34	1,320	3,272	1,698	179
From 09/11/2023	No. Received	<5	76	264	140	<5
	No. Accepted	<5	68	255	128	<5
2024	No. Received	26	849	2,305	1,153	22
	No. Accepted	16	790	2,121	1,047	14
2025	No. Received	17	553	1,657	963	17
	No. Accepted	12	498	1,470	855	10

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.

- A1b. Please note, due to the implementation of the new data system the Trust is unable to provide the data from November 2023 up to the 30th July 2025 as the information is not centrally held in a way which is easily extracted.

The Trust is also unable to provide the waiting times broken down by age as this information 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 the above referenced information.

However, for 2025 the Trust can provide the number of new patient waits as at 31st July 2025.

Please see Table 2 for Mental Health waiting times from March 2021 (Year End Reporting) to October 2023 and as at 31st July 2025.

Table 2

Year	No. of Patients Waiting
2020 – 2021	519
2021 – 2022	615
2022 - 2023	1,251
Up to October 2023	1,351
As at 31/07/2025	1,769