

20 August 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1301

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Trust Device and Software Data**

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 18 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 Planning, Performance & Informatics Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

However, in relation to the Trust Security Infrastructure Devices, within question 1, I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The above referenced information requested within question 1 is exempt from release under Section 31 and Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

These are all qualified exemptions and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because the disclosure of such information would:

- a) (Section 31) Leave the Trust patients, clients & staff more vulnerable to crime
- b) (Section 38) permits the withholding of information if there is a risk to Health and Safety of Individuals within the Trust. To withhold there must be a likelihood of endangerment to the physical or mental health of any individual

Section 31 – Law Enforcement Section

Section 31(1)(a) states that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. ICO guidance states that this can be used to protect information on a public authority's systems which would make it more vulnerable to crime. It can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function:

- To protect the work of one that does
- To withhold information that would make anyone, including the public authority itself, more vulnerable to crime

Section 38 – Health and safety

Section 38 states that as a security attack may lead to the placing of patient and client information into the public domain, the release of the requested information could potentially lead to harm for a number of patients (in a mental health context or may lead to physical harm)

The Trust believes there is a link between the risk endangerment for data subjects and the disclosure of the requested information. There would likely be a substantial detrimental effect on the physical or mental health of patients and clients, should the requested information be released

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of the Trusts Security Infrastructure Devices within question 1.

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. Can you please list the number of devices, within Table 1, deployed by your organisation for the following?

A1. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Device Type	No. of Devices
Desktop PCs	2,002
Laptops	1,820
Mobile Phones	5,542
Printers	236
Multi-Functional Devices	499
Tablets	4,748
Physical Servers	113
Storage Devices	8
Networking Infrastructure (Switches, Routers, Interfaces, Wireless Access Points)	6,000

Q2. Does your organisation have any plans to procure below software applications, within Table 2, if yes then please provide required information in the below format?

A2. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Category	2025/26 Spend/Budget	2026/27 Spend/Budget	2027/28 Spend/Budget	2028/29 Spend/Budget
Digital Electronic Discharge Systems	These systems are managed by the Business Services Organisation (BSO). If you wish to pursue this request please refer to the BSO on foi.bso@hscni.net			
Maternity Information Systems				
Laboratory Information management System				
Inventory Management System	No, the Trust does not plan to procure these software applications.			
Content/Document Management System				

Q3. Can your organisation provide Clinical ICT Strategy key decisions and priorities or ICT strategy documents for present and future years from 2025 to 2029?

A3. Please see Table 3.

Table 3

Category	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Key Decisions	Clinical ICT strategies are agreed regionally and published by the Department of Health (DoH). Please refer to the following website for Digital Strategy Health and Social care Northern Ireland 2022 – 2030 documents. https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/digital-strategy-health-and-social-care-northern-ireland-2022-2030			
Priorities				

Q4. Does your organisation use Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, if yes then please list the services and their estimated cost, from 2025 to 2029?

A4. Please see Table 4.

Table 4

Category	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
AI	Artificial Intelligence is managed by the BSO. If you wish to pursue this request please refer to the BSO on the details provided in Table 2			
Robotics	No, the Trust does not use Robotics.			

Q5. Can your organisation provide planned ICT procurement plans across software hardware or services for current and future years? (Software Applications/Hardware Devices/IT Managed Services)

- a. Electronic Patient Record (EPR) Solution**
- b. Shared care Record Solution**
- c. Population Health Management System**
- d. Patient Administration System**
- e. Patient Engagement Portal**

A5. In regards to a, b, d & e, these procurement plans are managed by the BSO. If you wish to pursue this request please refer to the BSO on the details provide in Table 2.

In regards to c, the Trust does not have a Population Health Management System.