

Information Governance

26 August 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1310

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Home Enteral Tube Feeding**

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 28 July 2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Primary Care and Older Peoples Service 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

Olivia Robinson
Information Governance Officer

Q1. Does your organisation provide care to individuals aged 0-25 who may use home enteral feeding tubes? Yes/No

A1. Yes, the Trust provide care to individuals aged 0-25 years who may use home enteral feeding tubes.

Q2a. How many patients has your organisation provided dietetic care for home enteral tube feeding between 01-01-2023-31-12-2024? Divided into the following age categories: 0-18, 18-25, 25+ (age when they joined the caseload or age on 01-01-23 if they were on the caseload throughout this period).

Q2b. If possible, please provide caseload numbers by age.

A2a-b. 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 questions 2a and 2b.

Q3. Of these, how many individuals use a blended diet*?

a. Divided in the following age categories: 0-18, 18-25, 25+

b. If possible, please provide caseload numbers by age.

A3. A total of 3 individuals in the 0-18 age category were on a blended diet from 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024.

Please see Table 1 for the number of individuals, broken down by age, on a blended diet from 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024.

Table 1

Age Category	No. of Individuals
4-5 Years of Age	1
8-9 Years of Age	1
15-16 Years of Age	1

Please note that no adults in the Trust use a blended diet.

Does your organisation have the following:

Q4a. Local blended diet policy – Acute setting (Yes/No)

A4a. The Trust does not have a local blended diet policy within Acute settings.

Q4b. Local blended diet policy – Community setting (Yes/No)

A4b. The Trust does not have a local blended diet policy within Community settings. However, a Policy for the Administration of Blended Diet via Gastrostomy Feeding Devices for Children and Young People in Community Settings is being developed at present.

Q4c. Blended diet guideline (Yes/No)

A4c. The Trust does not have blended diet guidelines.

Q4d. Blended diet standard operating guideline or procedure (Yes/No)

A4d. The Trust does not have a blended diet standard operating guideline or procedure.

Q4e. Blended diet training package (Yes/No)

A4e. The Trust does not have a blended diet training package.

Q4f. If yes to 4a-4e, please provide a copy.

A4f. Not Applicable.

Q5. Are any staff employed by your organisation in roles funded by income provided by an enteral feeding provider (e.g. Nutricia, Abbott)?

a. If yes, please state number of posts (whole time equivalent) and Agenda for Change banding.

****A blended diet is the use of everyday foods blended to a puree and given via an enteral feeding tube. This may be used exclusively or in combination with commercial formula***

- A5. There are no Trust staff employed in roles funded by income provided by an enteral feeding provider.