

24 January 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26766

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Hospital Appointment 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 the above which you requested on 7 January 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital 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

Jane McCormick
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. Can you give the duration a patient referred on 7th January 2019 will expect to wait for a first consultation for each of the following, broken down by urgent and routine appointments?

A1. Please see the information provided in Table 1 below. All waits refer to general referrals, all areas have sub specialities and waits differ depending on sub speciality.

Specialty	Urgent (number of weeks)	Routine (number of weeks)
Orthopaedics	SET does not see elective orthopaedics	
ENT	104	125
General Surgery	9	51
Urology	12	74
Cardiology	13	27
Gastroenterology	78	225
Allergy/Immunology (SET only does Paediatric Allergy)	60	228
Dermatology	26	151
Ophthalmology (Belfast Provided Service)	44	128
Hepatology	Not provided in SET	
Neurology	98	198
Rheumatology	87	121
Gynaecology	10	113

Table 1

Q2. What is the current length of time a patient should expect to wait for a review appointment scheduled for six months/12 months/18 months in each of the following specialties?

Orthopaedics

ENT

General Surgery

Urology

Cardiology

Gastroenterology

Allergy/Immunology

Dermatology

Ophthalmology

Hepatology

Neurology

Rheumatology

Gynaecology

A2. The Trust cannot provide accurate information in relation to this question. There are many different pathways for review patients and all patients will be different, depending on the diagnosed condition and the clinical priority as determined by the clinicians. Waiting times for the most urgent patients may be less, if deemed by a clinician that their referral warrants prioritisation.