

14 March 2019

Our Ref: RFI 27368

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Hospital Acquired Infections**

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 14 February 2019.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Nursing, Primary Care and Older People 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

**Catherine Treanor
Information Governance Assistant**

I would like to request the following information re incidence rates of hospital acquired infections, under the Freedom of Information Act.

Q1. The number of cases of NDM-1 – from January 2015 until January 2019 – broken down year by year

A1. None.

Q2. The number of cases of MRSA – from January 2015 until January 2019 – broken down year by year

A2. Please see Table 1 below which shows the number of MRSA infections reported from the Trust, split by number of days between the specimen date and the patient's admission to an acute Trust hospital.

Please note the current method of apportioning cases to be more likely associated with hospital stay is as follows: Any patient specimen taken on the second day of admission onwards (e.g. day 2, when day 0 equals the date of admission) is more likely to be associated with hospital stay.

Table 1

Year	Apportioning		Total
	<2 Days	>2 Days	
2015	5	5	10
2016	13	2	15
2017	1	2	3
2018	7	6	13
2019*	0	0	0
Total	26	15	41

Q3. The number of cases of Vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) – from January 2015 until January 2019 – broken down year by year

A3. None.

Q4. The number of cases of C:Diff– from January 2015 until January 2019 – broken down year by year

A4. Please see Table 2 below showing the number of inpatient C. difficile infections reported from the Trust, split by number of days between the specimen date and the patient's admission to an acute Trust hospital.

Please note the current method of apportioning cases to be more likely associated with hospital stay is as follows: Any patient specimen taken on the third day of admission onwards (e.g. day 3 when day 0 equals day of admission) in an acute Trust (including cases with unspecified specimen location) for In-patients, Day-patients, Emergency Assessment, or unspecified patient category.

Table 2

Year	Apportioning		Total
	<3 days	>3 days	
2015	40	36	76
2016	38	37	75
2017	26	27	53
2018	33	36	69
2019*	5	5	10
Total	142	141	283

Q5. *The number of cases of Necrotising fasciitis– from January 2015 until January 2019 – broken down year by year*

A5. The Trust does not hold this information. The Public Health Agency may hold records of cases of necrotising fasciitis due to invasive group A streptococcal infection. They can be contacted via the following email address: foi.pha@hscni.net.

Q6. *The number of cases Pseudomonas aeruginosa – from January 2015 until January 2019 – broken down year by year*

A6. Please see Table 3 below which shows the number of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* blood stream infections reported from the Trust, split by number of days between the specimen date and the patient's admission to an acute Trust hospital.

Please note information concerning healthcare-associated *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is only available from 2017 onwards. Prior to this, admission date had not been collected as part of routine surveillance. Enhanced surveillance of Gram-negative bacteraemia commenced in April 2018. Information for 2017 was validated with the Health and Social Care Trusts. Data below relates to bloodstream infections only.

Table 3

Year	Apportioning			Total
	<2 days	>2 days	No Admission Date	
2017	7	1	0	8
2018	6	4	1	11
2019*	1	1	0	2
Total	14	6	1	21

**data up to 31/01/2019*

Q7. *In addition, can you please tell me the number of deaths from each of the above during the same requested period.*

A7. This information is not held by the Trust. For accurate information on deaths related to these infections please contact the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) at info@nisra.gov.uk.