

26 March 2019

Our Ref: RFI 27804

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Spinal Fusion Surgery**

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 8 March 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. *How long was the waiting list for spinal fusion surgery for Scoliosis during the months of August and September 2018?***
- Q2. *How long was the waiting list for spinal fusion surgery for Scoliosis in 2018?***
- Q3. *How much does a fusion operation cost and how long do patients spend in hospital post operation?***
- Q4. *How many spinal fusion procedures for Scoliosis were carried out during 2018?***

Ans Spinal fusion surgery is an elective surgery and is not performed by the Trust.