

8 July 2019

**Our Ref:** RFI 29246

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Urology Appointments and Vasectomy Patients**

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 6 June 2019. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

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](mailto: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 Kelly**  
**Information Governance Assistant**

**Q1. The length of time a patient referred on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 will wait for a (i) routine and (ii) urgent urology outpatient appointment.**

A1. The current waiting time for a routine outpatient appointment, at 25 May 2019, is 101 weeks and for an urgent appointment is 13 weeks. The triage category is determined by the Consultant Urologist and may not be the same as the General Practitioner category.

**Q2. The length of time a patient who attended a urology outpatient appointment on 25 May 2019 will wait for a vasectomy.**

A2. The current waiting time is 78 weeks and can alter depending on the demand for cancer and urgent procedures.

**Q3. The number of vasectomies performed by the Trust, broken down by site, each year since 2013.**

A3. Please see Table1.

Table 1

	ARDS	DOWNE	LAGAN VALLEY	ULSTER	Total
FY2013/2014	99	45	188	0	332
FY2014/2015	118	50	166		334
FY2015/2016	190	39	115	1	345
FY2016/2017	160	46	157	2	365
FY2017/2018	30	25	98	82	235
FY2018/2019		1	30	64	95

**Q4. The number of patients on the waiting list for vasectomy each year since 2013.**

This information is not centrally held.

**Q5. The number of patients currently waiting for a vasectomy to be performed by the Trust.**

There are currently 150 patients waiting for a vasectomy procedure.

**Q6. The number of vasectomy procedures cancelled each year since 2013.**

This information is not centrally held.