

23 September 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35563

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Colorectal/Gastroenterology 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 24 August 2020.

A response to the questions which you have raised at 1, 2 and 3b 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

Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant

From the 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019 in your Trust:

Q1. How many endoscopists were employed?

A1 In total there were 43 endoscopists employed in the Trust from 1 January 2019 to 31st December 2019 including nursing that cover gastroenterology, urology, respiratory general and colorectal.

Q2 How many endoscopists were colorectal surgeons, upper gastrointestinal surgeons, gastroenterologists or nurse endoscopists? Please include any details of any other groups of endoscopists that we have not mentioned above.

A2. There were 25 GI endoscopists employed in the Trust from 1 January 2019 to 31st December 2019, as follows:

- a) 8 Gastroenterologists
- b) 7 Colorectal surgeons
- c) 4 General surgeons
- d) 6 Nurse endoscopists.

Q3. For each group of endoscopist listed above (ie colorectal surgeons, upper gastrointestinal surgeons, gastroenterologists, nurse endoscopists, etc):

- a. How many endoscopy lists were performed in total by each group in the 12 month period?
- b. What procedures (ie oesophagogastroduodenoscopy (OGD), colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy etc) and how many procedures were performed by each group in the 12 month period?

A3. a. The Trust does not hold information on the number of endoscopy lists performed in total by each group in the 12 month period 1 January 2019 to 31st December 2019.

b. Table 1 below, provides information on the number and type of endoscopy procedures carried out from 1 January 2019 to 31st December 2019

Table 1

Endoscopy Procedure	Number	Group
Bronchoscopy	413	Respiratory
Colonoscopy	3646	Gastro
Cystoscopy	865	Urology
Duodenoscopy	22	Gastro
EBUS	122	Respiratory
Entroscopy	33	Gastro
ERCP	328	Gastro
Flexible Sigmoidoscopy	1277	Gastro
OGD	5204	Gastro
Pouchoscopy	15	Gastro
Total	11980	

- Q4. How many endoscopy procedures were performed in theatres and what were these procedures?**
- Q5. How many endoscopy procedures were performed in the radiology department, what were these procedures and who performed them (ie colorectal surgeons, gastroenterologists etc)?**

A4/5. The information requested in Question 4 and 5 is not held by the Trust 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

Please note that we are referring to only gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures and not respiratory procedures. We would appreciate it if the above information is provided in either Word or Excel format and sent electronically. If this request is unclear or if there are any further queries please get in touch. If any of this information is available in the public domain, please can we have page references and URLs if necessary. We would be grateful for written confirmation that you have received this request. We look forward to receiving your response in 20 working days as outlined by the statute.