

19 February 2021

Our Ref: RFI 37347

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Waiting Lists for Children's and Young People's
Optometry**

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 19 January 2021.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children's Services and Social Work 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

I would like to request the following:

- Q1. *The average and longest waiting time for a child or young person to see an optometry professional in each month of the last three years.***
- Q2. *The number of children and young people who are/have been on the Optometry initial assessment waiting list for each month of the last three years.***

A1&2. The information requested in Q1 and Q2 in respect of the Trust is provided in Table 1 below;

Table 1

Month	Total Waiting	Completed Waits (Ave wait in days)	Completed Waits (Max wait in days)
Apr-17	127	48	86
May-17	155	47	101
Jun-17	189	47	97
Jul-17	190	50	91
Aug-17	172	55	96
Sep-17	164	62	106
Oct-17	161	59	108
Nov-17	138	57	142
Dec-17	139	52	99
Jan-18	100	55	116
Feb-18	97	48	118
Mar-18	134	46	100
Apr-18	150	46	74
May-18	202	49	107
Jun-18	232	47	109
Jul-18	197	56	144
Aug-18	185	64	107
Sep-18	175	72	124
Oct-18	148	70	138
Nov-18	145	84	195
Dec-18	168	39	92
Jan-19	167	53	112
Feb-19	201	65	138
Mar-19	228	76	141
Apr-19	240	60	147
May-19	268	84	169

Month	Total Waiting	Completed Waits (Ave wait in days)	Completed Waits (Max wait in days)
Jun-19	245	85	180
Jul-19	220	89	161
Aug-19	199	74	114
Sep-19	181	82	131
Oct-19	168	73	144
Nov-19	115	55	125
Dec-19	96	56	186
Jan-20	66	41	125
Feb-20	70	33	109
Mar-20	116	36	91
Apr-20	119	34	57
May-20	133	0	0
Jun-20	149	4	9
Jul-20	196	79	153
Aug-20	225	80	175
Sep-20	233	97	228
Oct-20	201	127	242
Nov-20	155	77	242
Dec-20	123	75	145
Jan-21	119	72	126

In relation to the above table please note the following

- a) Total Waiting - total number of patients waiting for Orthoptic services at the end of each month.
- b) Average wait in days - based on attendances that month and the days between current date and 1st attendance date (current date is the reset date if the patient cancels or do not attends).
- c) Max wait in days - based on attendances that month and the days between current date and 1st attendance date (current date is the reset date if the patients cancels or do not attends).

Source: Outpatient universes - Data Warehouse (run date 11/02/21)
Specialty Description or Specialty of Clinic Description ORTHOPTICS(A),
ORTHOPTICS(WLI)