

18 August 2021

Our Ref: RFI 40014

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to oesophageal and gastric cancer**

I am writing to advise that following your request for Information the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust received on 20 July 2021 and the response issued to you on 21 July 2021, it has been established the information provided was incorrect. I do apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

A new 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

**Ellen Hutton
Information Governance Assistant**

I am researching the incidence and treatment of oesophageal and gastric cancer. I would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following questions.

Q1. Does your trust treat the following conditions?

- Advanced oesophageal cancer:***
- Advanced gastric cancer:***
- In case you do not treat either of the above conditions, which other trust do you refer these patients to?***

A1. Patients with advanced oesophageal or gastric cancer are transferred to the Belfast Trust for treatment.

Q2. Please provide the total number of patients treated in the last 6 months for

Q2(a) Oesophageal cancer (any type)

A2(a) From January to June 2021 there were 24 patients treated for oesophageal cancer.

Q2(b) Oesophageal adenocarcinoma:

A2(b) From January to June 2021 there were 9 patients treated for Oesophageal adenocarcinoma.

Q2(c) Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma:

A2(c) From January to June 2021 there were less than 5* patients treated for Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

Q2(d) Unresectable oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma:

A2(d) There is currently no method, other than a manual audit to identify unresectable oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

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.

**You will note that some figures have been masked; this is due to a low number of patients in a small geographical area.*

Q2(e) Gastric cancer (any type)

A2(e) There were 11 patients treated for any type of gastric cancer in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust between January and June 2021.

Q3. For oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma only, how many patients were treated in the past 6 months with:

- **Platinum and Fluoropyrimidene based combination treatments (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin with 5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)**
- **Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy**
- **Palliative care only**

Q3. Patients are transferred to Belfast Trust for treatment of oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

Q4. For gastric cancer only, how many patients were treated in the past 6 months with:

- **CapeOx (Capecitabine with Oxaliplatin)**
- **FOLFOX (Folinic acid, Fluorouracil and Oxaliplatin)**
- **Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy**
- **Palliative care only**

A4. Patients with gastric cancer are transferred to Belfast Trust for treatment.

Q5. Does your trust participate in any ongoing clinical trials for the treatment of oesophageal cancer? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial and the number of patients taking part.

A5. The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust does not participate in clinical trials in the treatment of oesophageal cancer.

Q6. Does your trust participate in any ongoing clinical trials for the treatment of gastric cancer? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial and the number of patients taking part?

A6. The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust does not participate in clinical trials in the treatment of gastric cancer.