

13 December 2021

Our Ref: RFI 40967

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to PET-CT Access for Prostate Cancer 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 17 September 2021. 'Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, due to the impact of Winter Pressures that the Trust are currently facing. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance of this matter.'

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

**Joyce Batch
Information Governance Officer**

This Freedom of Information Act (FOI) Request of all Trusts, Health Boards and Health and Social Care Trusts aims to give us an overview of access to PET-CT for prostate cancer across the UK.

In any multiple-choice questions, we ask that you please indicate your answer by marking with an "X" next to any answers that apply or by deleting all answers that do not apply. Please avoid answering by italics, underlining or bold, as these do not show up when we process your response.

Q1. Does your trust/ HB have access to PET-CT for the investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence in prostate cancer patients?

A1. The Trust does not have access to PET-CT for the investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence in prostate cancer patients. The Trust refers, patients to the Belfast Trust.

Q2. If you answered "No" to question 1. Would you use PET-CT for the investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence in prostate cancer patients if it were available?

A2. c. N/A - We already have access to PET-CT. X

Q3. In 2020-21, how many patients do you estimate were investigated for suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer at your trust/ HB?

A3. There is currently no method, other than a manual audit to identify suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer patients within the Trust.

Q4. What percentage of patients with suspected biochemical recurrence do you estimate are referred for PET-CT at your trust/ HB?

A4. There is currently no method, other than a manual audit to identify suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer patients within the Trust.

Q5. Of patients with suspected biochemical recurrence referred for PET-CT, what % of scans do you estimate use a PSMA tracer (either Ga-PSMA or F-PSMA)?

A5. There is currently no method, other than a manual audit to identify suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer patients within the Trust.

Q6 *.Are there any exclusion criteria for referral for PET-CT for suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer? If so, what are they? E.g. Upper and lower PSA limits, age, life expectancy, ECOG score.*

A6. Referrals within the Trust would be made would be made by an oncologist.

Q7. *.What do you estimate is the average waiting time for the PET-CT scans for investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer?*

A7. The average waiting time for the PET-CT scans for investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer is from 2 to 3 weeks

Q8. *What do you estimate is the average time it takes to report PET-CT scans for investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer?*

A8. The average time it takes to report PET-CT scans for investigation of suspected biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer is 1 to 2 days.