



13 April 2023

Our Ref: RFI 49878

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to H.Pylori Testing in Hospitals throughout the Trust**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 15 March 2023.

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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Manager

Q1. How do you test for H. Pylori infection during upper GI endoscopies ? Please specify what tests you use, eg, Culture Biopsy (Pathology), Urease.

A1. A Biopsy Urease test.

Q2. How many H. Pylori tests are performed in a typical month?

A2. The information requested is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of charts in order to provide accurate figures.

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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice for Question 2.

Q3. Who decides to purchase H. Pylori tests?

A3. The Pharmacy Procurement Manager is responsible for H. Pylori test purchases.

Q4. Which H.Pylori test(s) do you use most?

A4. Bio-Hit Health Care Biopsy Urease test is the only test the Trust uses.

Q5. Why do you use these tests most?

A5. This is the only test available from the Trust Pharmacy.

Q6. Where in the hospital is the test usually done, and by whom?

A6. The tests are carried out in the Endoscopy Units by the Endoscopists.

Q7. What medication do you use to treat H, Pylori? Please give drug name and brand.

A7. To treat H, Pylori the Trust uses Proton pump inhibitors, antibiotics such as amoxicillin, clarithromycin and metronidazole.

Q8. What is the typical cost per test? Please give an estimate for unbranded or laboratory own tests.

A8. The typical cost per test is £19.04.

Q9. Do you use a Urease test for H. Pylori? If not, what type of test do you use? Eg breath test, culture, etc.

A9. Yes, Biopsy Urease test.

Q10. If you use a Urease test for H. Pylori, what type of Urease H. Pylori test do you use? Please give drug name and brand

A10. Bio-hit Healthcare