

09 May 2022

Our Ref: RFI 43154

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to the use of Private Hospitals by 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 29 March 2022. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Planning, Performance & Informatics 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 Assistant

Q1. The number of patients who went to private Doctors for treatment from January 2020 until present?

A1. Please see Table 1 for Operations in the Independent Sector from 01/01/2020 to 28/02/2022.

Table 1

Independent sector Name	No. of Admissions	No. of Day Cases
352 Group	4	148
Belfast Skin Clinic	Nil	197
Fitzwilliam	4	274
Hermitage Medical Clinic	Nil	<3
I Totally H'Cr	Nil	<3
Orthoderm	<3	2045

You will note that some of the numbers within Table 1 have been masked. The numbers have been masked because there are a small number of individuals within a small geographical area and therefore the individual could be identified. Potential Identification of the individual may therefore lead to the disclosure of their personal information.

This information relates to personal information, it is exempt from release under Section 40 (2) and 40 (3) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.

Section 40 (personal information) states:-

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

*(a) it constitutes personal data which not fall within subsection (1), and
(b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.*

(3) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—

(a) would contravene any of the data protection principles.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice for the results masked in Table 1.

Please note that all activity taking place in Table 1 within the independent sector is paid by the NHS, none of the facilities in Table 1 are private hospitals as they do not have overnight beds.