

01 September 2022

Our Ref: RFI 45609

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Patient Status while on Trust Appointment List**

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 12 July 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 people who have died while on a waiting list for a first outpatient appointment each year since 2017, broken down by age category.

A1. Please see Table 1 for the number of patients who have died whilst on a waiting list for a first outpatient appointment, since 2017.

Table 1

Year	Age Category									Total
	0-17	17-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76-84	85+	
2017	<3	<3	8	17	36	47	130	183	239	663
2018	Nil	5	7	9	25	67	137	181	200	631
2019	3	5	10	18	30	75	137	185	233	696
2020	<3	3	12	13	40	86	157	230	258	800
2021	Nil	9	13	26	46	82	193	287	356	1012
2022 April – July	Nil	<3	6	13	15	50	91	181	181	539

Q2. The number of people who have died while on a waiting list for inpatient/day case appointment each year since 2017, broken down by age category.

A2. Please see Table 2 for the number of patients who have died whilst on a waiting list for an inpatient appointment, since 2017.

Table 2

Year Patient removed from Waiting list	Age Category									Total
	0-16	17-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	85+		
2017	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	8	13	64	34	125	
2018	Nil	Nil	<3	Nil	6	22	57	35	121	
2019	<3	Nil	<3	3	9	20	63	39	137	
2020	Nil	<3	Nil	4	9	18	73	41	146	
2021	Nil	<3	3	5	12	27	94	30	173	
2022 April-July	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	7	4	52	20	88	

Q3. The number of people who have died while on a waiting list for diagnostic appointment each year since 2017, broken down by age category.

A3. Please see Table 3 for the number of patients who have died whilst on a waiting list for an inpatient diagnostic test appointment, since 2017.

Table 3

Year Patient removed from Waiting list	Age Category							Total
	17-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	85+	
2017	Nil	<3	<3	5	<3	30	13	52
2018	<3	Nil	<3	<3	5	28	10	46
2019	Nil	<3	Nil	<3	4	16	8	32
2020	Nil	Nil	3	4	10	32	10	59
2021	Nil	<3	Nil	3	7	33	13	57
2022 April-July	Nil	Nil	<3	<3	<3	15	8	28

You will note that some of the numbers within Tables 1, 2 & 3 have been masked. The numbers have been masked because the Trust would advise that due to the small number of cases within a defined geographical location, and the potential for data linkage, the Trust considers that if this information was to be made publically available it could be identifiable and cause unnecessary distress and upset to those involved.

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 masked numbers in Tables 1, 2 & 3.