

08 September 2023

Our Ref: RFI 52742

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Nut Allergies in Children**

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 10 August 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Surgery & Elective, Maternity & Paediatrics 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

Robyn Watterson
Information Governance Officer

Q1. How many children (under 18) in your Trust area have been diagnosed with a nut allergy each year over the last five years (Jan 2018-Dec2018 and each year up to Jan 2022-Dec 2022 and 2023 to date)?

A1. The Allergy Clinic Review List contains approximately 1500 patients. However, there is no clinical coding for outpatient work in paediatrics therefore it is not possible to identify the actual number of patients with a nut allergy.

Q2a. How many children in your Trust area are currently living with a nut allergy?

A2a. The Trust does not hold a database containing this information therefore we are unable to provide an answer.

Q2b. What percentage of the under 18 population does this represent in your Trust area?

Q2b. As no database is held containing this information, we are unable to provide an answer.

Q3a. Are treatments offered in your Trust area to children with a nut allergy?

A3a. The only treatment available is a recently licensed drug (2021) Palforzia, which is specifically for peanut allergy. However, no funding has been received and this is a resource intensive treatment requiring inpatient and outpatient resources. We have been unable to offer this in the Trust due to lack of investment.

Q3b. If so, what are the treatments, where are these treatments offered and how many children are currently receiving treatment?

A3b. Not applicable.

Q3c. How many children, if any, have successfully been treated in your Trust area over the last 5 years (Jan 2018-Dec 2018 and each year up to Jan 2022-Dec 2022 and 2023 to date) and are no longer considered to have a nut allergy?

A3c. Not applicable.

Q4a. Are children in your Trust area being treated for nut allergies in another NI Health Trust or outside of NI?

A4a. No one has commenced treatment in any NI Trust. To our knowledge, no – one has received treatment outside of NI, however we would not necessarily be aware of families who have sought private treatment.

Q4b. *If so, what are the treatments, where are these treatments offered and how many children are currently receiving treatment?*

A4b. Not applicable.

Q5. *How many children within in your Trust area have died because of a nut allergy over the last 5 years (Jan 2018-Dec 2018 and each year up to Jan 2022-Dec2022 and 2023 to date)?*

A5. There have been no nut allergy deaths within the Trust in the last 5 years.