

25 October 2023

Our Ref: RFI 53565

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Diagnostic Endoscopy Waiting Times**

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 18 September 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. What is the average waiting time in weeks, by month from end August 2022 – end August 2023 or the most recent month available and the preceding 12 months, for a) red flag, b) urgent and c) non-urgent diagnostic colonoscopy referrals?**
- Q2. What is the average waiting time in weeks, by month from end August 2022 – August 2023 or the most recent month available and the preceding 12 for months, for a) red flag, b) urgent and c) non-urgent diagnostic flexible sigmoidoscopy referrals?**

A1/2. The Trust is not able to provide average retrospective waiting times for red flag, urgent and non-urgent referrals for diagnostic colonoscopies and diagnostic flexible sigmoidoscopies. However, the Service has been able to provide the current waiting times for red flag, urgent and non-urgent diagnostic colonoscopy and flexible sigmoidoscopy referrals. Please see Table 1 below:

Table 1:

	Red Flag	Urgent	Routine
Flexible Sigmoidoscopy	2-3 weeks	150 weeks	214 weeks
Colonoscopy	3-4 weeks	142 weeks	200 weeks