

26 January 2024

**Our Ref:** RFI 55098

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Hospital Admissions for Mental Health Patients**

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 01 December 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare Directorate and the Children's Service & Social Work 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](mailto: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

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**Robyn Watterson  
Information Governance Officer**

**Q1. What was the average wait time for mental health patients to be admitted to a specialist bed in a mental health hospital, from the time of referral to the mental health team?**

A1. This information is not collated on an ongoing basis as patients are allocated beds on request and there is seldom a wait for a bed. However, in recent times we had a number of occasions where there have been delays to a person's admission due to increases in demands for beds and/or delays in discharging patients. These waits are recorded on an individual basis and are formally monitored through patient flow processes.

**Q2. What was the longest an individual mental health patient waited to be admitted to a specialist bed in a mental health hospital, from the time of referral to the mental health team?**

A2. The longest recorded wait has been 14 days in June 2023.

**Q3. How many mental health patients in your health board were admitted to a specialist bed in a mental health hospital?**

A3. Within the Trust there have been a total of 481 admissions across the 3 acute mental health inpatient units from 01 August 2022 to 01 August 2023.

Please note, Service have advised that for Children's mental health, that CAMHS may hold the information requested. You may wish to contact them at [publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net)