

Our Ref: RFI 55586

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Drug Overdoses**

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 2 January 2024. 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 Officer

I would like to ask the following information regarding drug overdoses please, and would like the information broken down by hospital site. If this is not possible, please state that the data is at health board level.

Q1. How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022?

A1. Please see Table 1 for the number of admissions related to drug overdoses for the year 2022.

Table 1

Hospital	No. of Admissions
Ulster	283
Lagan Valley	18
Down	<5

Q2. How many admissions related to drug overdose from January to November 2023?

A2. The Trust is currently only able to report up to 31 July 2023 due to clinical coding time lag.
Please see Table 2 for the number of admissions related to drug overdoses from 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2023.

Table 2

Hospital	No. of Admissions
Ulster	165
Lagan Valley	8
Down	<5

*Please note, where numbers are 1-4 within table 1 & 2, in line with Trust policy, it is given as <5, to reduce any risk of identification of individual patients.

Q3. What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?

A3. The information requested is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of question 3.

Q4. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level 2022?

Q5. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level Jan - Nov 2023?

A. In relation to questions 4 & 5 please refer to the figures reported in Table 1 and 2 above. The Trust would consider all patients admitted to hospital to be under the care of a medical professional and therefore in receipt of treatment at ward level.

Q6. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in 2022?

A6. There were 19 patients admitted for a drug overdose that required admission to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or High Dependency Unit (HDU) during their inpatient stay.

Q7. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in January - November 2023?

A7. There were 18 patients admitted for a drug overdose that required admission to ICU or HDU during their inpatient stay.

Q8. What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your intensive/critical care unit?

A8. Please see Table 3 for the average length of stay for patients admitted with a drug overdose in ICU/HDU.

Table 3

Year	Average Length of Stay
2022	2.2 Days
2023	3 Days

Q9. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital in 2022?

A9. In 2022, 20 patients, with a clinically coded diagnosis relating to a drug overdose, died in hospital. Please be advised that the death cannot be directly attributed to this diagnosis.

Q10. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital Jan-Nov 2023?

A10. The Trust is currently only able to report up to 31 July 2023 due to clinical coding time lag. From 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2023, 7 patients with a clinically coded diagnosis relating to a drug overdose, died in hospital. Please be advised that the death cannot be directly attributed to this diagnosis.