



15 April 2024

Our Ref: RFI 57410

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Psychiatric Assessments in Northern Ireland Prisons**

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 20 March 2024.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services & Prison Healthcare 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

Q1. For each of the last five years, please breakdown, per year, the number of psychiatric assessments carried out on inmates on remand from NI Prisons, breaking this down by which prisons the inmates are housed in.

Q2. For each of the last five years, please breakdown, per year, the number of inmates on remand in NI prisons, who are awaiting a psychiatric assessment, breaking this down by the numbers from each prison.

i. Please also detail the average wait time for such assessments for each prison for each year, along with the maximum recorded wait time for each prison each year.

A1, 2. Please be advised that "Custodial status" is not routinely recorded in the Health system after initial committal health assessment and is therefore subject to change during a person's stay in Prison.

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 Questions 1 & 2.

Q3. For each of the last five years, please breakdown, per year, the number of inmates on remand who are recommended to be moved from a prison setting to a secure mental health unit.

Please breakdown the average and maximum amount of time recorded before an inmate on remand is available to transfer outside of prison and into a secure mental health unit.

i. Please once again break this down as to each individual prison

A3. Please see Table 1, overleaf, for the number of inmates on remand who are recommended to be moved from a prison setting to a secure mental health unit and wait times.

Table 1

Year	HMP Maghaberry			HMP Magilligan			HMP Hydebank		
	Total No. of Patients on remand referred to and accepted by Secure Mental Health Unit for transfer	Average Time from Assessment by Healthcare in Prison to transfer to Mental Health Unit (Days)	Longest Wait (Days)	Total No. of Patients on remand referred to and accepted by Secure Mental Health Unit for transfer	Average Time from Assessment by Healthcare in Prison to transfer to Mental Health Unit (Days)	Longest Wait (Days)	Total No. of Patients on remand referred to and accepted by Secure Mental Health Unit for transfer	Average Time from Assessment by Healthcare in Prison to transfer to Mental Health Unit (Days)	Longest Wait (Days)
2024 (as of 28/03/2024)	<5	20	26	Nil	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A
2023	9	32	75	Nil	N/A	N/A	<5	14	14
2022	<5	15	21	Nil	N/A	N/A	<5	20	24
2021	7	18	42	Nil	N/A	N/A	<5	27	48
2020	<5	32	52	Nil	N/A	N/A	<5	43	54