

1 May 2024

Our Ref: RFI 57285**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Commissioned Mental Health Beds**

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 15 March 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 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. Please for each of the last five years, detail the number of commissioned mental health beds available across the Trust, breaking these figures down as to what building/hospital site these are on.

A1. Please see table 1 for the number of commissioned mental health beds available across the Trust.
Please note that the number of available beds has been the same availability over the last 5 year period.

Table 1

Hospital	No. of Beds
Lagan Valley Hospital Ward 12	21
Ulster Hospital Ward 27	24
Downe Hospital Mental Health Inpatient Unit	25

Q2. For each of the last five years, please outline the average occupancy rates of these mental health beds on each site

A2. Please see Table 2 for the average occupancy rates of mental health beds within the Trust.
Please note that the Trust can temporarily only provide data up to 8 November 2023 due to migrating to the new Encompass system. The data validation for this system is currently ongoing.
However the Trust can confirm that the occupancy in all of the wards continues to be over 100%.

Table 2

Financial Year	Lagan Valley Hospital Ward 12 (%)	Ulster Ward 27 (%)	Downe Mental Health Inpatient Unit (%)
2018/2019	87	99	90
2019/2020	92	102	97
2020/2021	90	92	100
2021/2022	97	96	99
2022/2023	101	102	101
2023/2024 up to 8/11/24	100	106	102

Q3. For each of the last five years, outline the number of times in which patients are admitted to mental health units without a commissioned bed available, with patients instead being admitted to contingency beds, chairs or settees till bed becomes available.

a) For each year and each site, please outline the longest amount of time a patient has been on a non-commissioned bed.

A3. The information requested is not available as the Trust does not record the number of patients who have utilised contingency spaces nor the length of time an individual has remained in a contingency space. Any ward/unit with occupancy levels over 100% will necessitate the use of contingency spaces.

Q4. For each of the last five years, outline how many times a patient requiring a mental health bed is placed on a medical ward within the hospital, given the lack of availability of a specifically commissioned mental health bed.

a) For each year and each site, please outline the longest amount of time a patient has been on a bed within a non-mental health ward.

A4. The Trust have not admitted any patients into a medical bed instead of a commissioned mental health bed. Patients would only be admitted into a medical bed if they require medical treatment.