



26 November 2024

Our Ref: FOI 311

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to opiate Substitution Treatment in Maghaberry and
Magilligan 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 24 October 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. The total number of prisoners in HMP Maghaberry who were on the waiting list for assessment for opiate substitution treatment in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Please provide separate figures for each year.

A1. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

HMP Maghaberry	Year (As at end of October)	Total No. of Patients on Healthcare in Prison (HiP) Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) Waiting List
	2022	109
	2023	91
	2024	57

Please note - Figures are based at end of October in each calendar year

Q2. The total number of prisoners in HMP Magilligan who were on the waiting list for assessment for opiate substitution treatment in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Please provide separate figures for each year.

A2. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

HMP Magilligan	Year (As at end of October)	Total No. of Patients on HiP OST Waiting List
	2022	82
	2023	63
	2024	25

Please note - Figures are based at end of October in each calendar year

Q3. The number of prisoners who were assessed in each year in each prison.

A3. In regards to the number of assessments per year at each Prison site, the information 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 regards to the number of patients assessed broken down by each Prison site.

However, the Trust can provide the total number of patients assessed across all Prison sites.

Please see Table 3 for the total across all Prison sites.

Table 3

All Prison Sites	Year (January – December)	Total No. of Patients assessed by HiP SE Trust in each Year for OST
	2022	56
	2023	112
	2024 (up to end of September)	59

Q4. The number of prisoners who were placed on an opiate substitution programme in each year in each prison.

A4. The Trust is unable to provide the figures for the number of prisoners who were placed on an OS Programme, each year, in each Prison. This is due to the population of Prisons being dynamic and not static. The flow of patients into and out of prison is significant and complex and not all patients that receive OST in Prison, are initiated within HiP. A significant number of patients commence OST in the community, whose care is then passed to HiP Clinical Addiction Team (CAT).

However, please see Table 4 where the Trust has provided the CAT OST Caseload (patients actively in receipt of OST at the end of the calendar month of September), and the range to represent the highest and lowest number of patients on OST at month end for that year.

Table 4

All Prison Sites	Year (January – December)	Total No. of Patients OST Caseload at 30/09/24	Range (Highest & Lowest) No. of Patients on OST for Each Year
	2022	163	161 – 172
	2023	193	159 – 195
	2024 (up to end of September)	180	165 - 186