

6 December 2021

Delayed Discharge from Hospital Due to Wait for Community Care Package

I would like the following information:

- 1 The number of inpatients deemed medically fit to be discharged, who were waiting for a community care package to be put in place so they could be discharged broken down by (i) hospital and (ii) age in the Trust on 1st November 2021.**
- 2 The number of inpatients deemed medically fit to be discharged who were waiting longer than (i) one week; (ii) two weeks; (iii) one month; (iv) three months; (v) six months broken down by hospital and age in the Trust on 1st November 2021.**
- 3 The number of inpatients deemed medically fit to be discharged from hospital but who were unable to do so as there was no community care package in place in the last financial year.**

Answers to questions 1 to 3 in separate Excel spreadsheet.

In regard to question 2, on 1st November 2021, no patient was waiting longer than one month.

- 4 The number of people deemed medically fit for discharge but who were unable to do so as there was no community care package who died in hospital, each year since January 2019, broken down by age.**

Belfast Trust are unable to provide an answer to Question 4. The reason for this is that it would require a manual exercise to retrieve the data and therefore it would take more than 18 hours.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more person spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.