

24 November 2022

MRIs for overweight patients

Enquiry:

This is an information request relating to MRIs for overweight patients.

Please include the information for each of the following financial years; 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22:

- The number of patients within the remit of the Trust who have had to be sent to an external, or alternative MRI machine due to being overweight
- The annual cost of using these alternative or external MRIs
- Where the MRIs are (for example, at specialist hospitals)

Trust response:

Belfast Trust does not record this information centrally.

The Belfast Trust is aware that there is a limiting factor to the MRI scanner in the Mater Hospital due the size of the of the bore diameter of the equipment. The bore diameter of the Mater MRI scanner, due to its age, is 60cm and the table has a weight limit of 200kg. This equipment is therefore not suitable for some patients. The solution that Belfast Trust has put in place for patients for the regional cardiac MRI waiting list is that they are scheduled for another larger bore scanner within the region.

There are also two 2 MRI scanners on the Belfast City Hospital site. Patients can be accommodated on this equipment with the greater table weight limit. For body and neuro MRI scans patients are scheduled in another scanner in the Belfast Trust.

The Imaging Service in Belfast Trust is not aware of any patients who have been sent elsewhere, on the mainland or otherwise, for their MRI scan based on being overweight.

Therefore there are no related additional costs that we can report.

The Belfast Trust MRI scanners are located on the following sites across the Trust:

Site	Number
Belfast City Hospital	2
Mater Hospital	1
Musgrave Park Hospital	2
Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	1
Royal Victoria Hospital	2