

**27 February 2023**

## **Independent Sector Expenditure**

**In relation to the following procedures carried out by the private sector on behalf of the Trust:**

- **Hip replacement**
- **Knee replacement**
- **Cataract surgery**
- **Gallbladder removal**
- **Coronary angioplasty and stent insertion**

**Can you provide us with:**

- **the percentage increase of the cost for each type of operation for each of the past five years,**
- **the number of each type of operation carried out each year for each of the past five years**
- **the total bill for each type of surgery, for each of the past five years**

Belfast Trust has accessed capacity in the independent sector to help with reduction of waiting list.

Funding of IS capacity has been provided to the Trust by the Health and Social Care Board (previously) and the Department of Health.

The Trust is unable to breakdown the costs for each type of operation within the FOI timescales allowed. 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 persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

Data has been provided at specialty level on total procedures performed in the years noted and allocations for the years noted

Please note the case mix for procedures can vary in each year, e.g. Orthopaedic can include spinal surgeries, joint surgeries and fracture surgeries, which have a range of costs for procedures

Ophthalmology can include injections, VR surgeries and cataract surgeries

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**Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Information & Finance Departments  
IS IPDC Activity  
Period of Report: FY's 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21 & 21/22**

Specialty	No. carried out 17/18	17/18 £000's	No. carried out 18/19	18/19 £000's	No. carried out 19/20	19/20 £000's	No. carried out 20/21	20/21 £000's	No. carried out 21/22	21/22 £000's
Orthopaedics procedures	448	3,586	379	2,918	119	894	68	979	138	1,886
Ophthalmology procedures	200	263	1574	2,071	526	1,435	231	972	973	4,670
General Surgery procedures	137	810	221	683	235	1,100	174	965	834	2,287
Cardiac Surgery procedures	30	886	70	2,052	30	725	71	2,325	208	5,075