

8 January 2025

Referrals to UK Orthopaedic Hospitals from Belfast Trust for Diastematomyelia, Scoliosis and Hemivertebra

I would like to obtain data on all referrals made to UK orthopaedic hospitals from Belfast Trust orthopaedic hospitals such as Musgrave, for diastematomyelia, scoliosis and hemivertebra from 1978 to 1985.

This includes referrals to discuss removal of the septum and untethering of the spinal cord. Please give me supplementary non-personal data on these referrals including age of patient, condition and surgical outcomes.

Information is not available on referrals from Belfast Trust for specialised orthopaedic issues and related surgeries from 1978 to 1985.

To provide it would require a manual review of charts, if charts were still available in line with Belfast Trust's Retention and Disposal Schedule.

Belfast 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.