

3 January 2025

## **Request about Hepatitis B and D within Belfast Trust**

I am writing to submit a new FOI request about Hepatitis B and D within your Trust.

1. a) How many Hepatitis B surface antigen positive (HBsAg, ICD 10 codes B18.0 and B18.1) patients do you have registered with the Trust?  
  
b) How many of these patients have been seen in the last 12 months?
2. How many patients have been registered in the last year with a new diagnosis of chronic HBV (ICD-10 codes B18.0 and B18.1) at the Trust?
3. a) How many HDV patients (ICD 10 code B18.0 - chronic viral hepatitis B with delta agent) do you have registered with the Trust?  
  
b) How many of these patients have been seen in the last 12 months?
- c) How many of these patients have ever been treated with pegylated interferon (PEG IFN)?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust do not currently hold this information centrally. While encompass will help with this in time (when everyone has been seen and coded appropriately), at present we would not be able to provide accurate numbers without a significant time burden, which would vastly exceed 18 hours.

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.