

**22 July 2025**

## **Cardiac Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2002 please provide any correspondence or reports held by the Trust in relation to the external review carried out on the Cardiac Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital between January 01 2025 and May 29 2025.**

We are unable to provide the information which you have requested as this is withheld under Section 36 (Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000). The Trust feels that if we were to release this report, this would likely prejudice the effective conduct of the Trust's Investigation into the Cardiac Surgery Unit.

In order to uphold this exemption, a qualified person must review the arguments for and against disclosure. In this case, the Chief Executive of the Belfast Trust has confirmed that the requested information should be withheld under Section 36 as the need to protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation is recognised.