

22 July 2025

Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit at Royal Victoria Hospital

- 1. The Chief Executive of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust commissioned an Invited Service Review (ISR) of the Trusts Cardiothoracic surgical service following a number of concerns regarding the clinical management and leadership within the service following a breakdown of communication and working relationships within the service. The ISR was undertaken by the Royal College of Surgeons into Cardiothoracic Services at the Belfast Trust between 9 and 11 March 2020. Release a copy of the Invited Service Review.**
- 2. Release a copy of the concerns regarding the clinical management and leadership.**
- 3. How many concerns have been raised by staff in relation to the cardiothoracic services?**
 - (i) Provide the date of all concerns**
 - (ii) How was each concern resolved?**
- 4. The ISR team reported a number of significant issues and made 37 recommendations. Interpersonal and behavioural issues within the service. On what date was each of the 37 recommendations actioned?**
- 5. The service was placed into enhanced monitoring by the General Medical Council in February 2021. This action was taken in respect of the training experience for doctors. Release all records held by the Belfast Trust in relation to the enhanced monitoring by the GMC.**
- 6. A review of the cardiac service management structures was undertaken resulting in the appointment of a new Clinical Director in September 2021, and new clinical leads in October 2021. Release a copy of the review.**

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.

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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.