

12 August 2025

Pseudomonas Aeruginosa

I am writing to amend my previous Freedom of Information request (FOI/33614) regarding Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections in your hospitals from 2002 to 2009, in light of your response dated 16 April 2025.

Given the constraints claimed, I would like to request the following, if possible:

1. Are there any summary reports, annual infection control reports, or publications from the period 2002-2009 that might include data on Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections in Belfast hospitals? If so, could you please provide these or direct me to where they can be accessed?

As the request pertains to a timeframe greater than 10 years ago, for increased incidences and outbreaks this information is no longer held locally and to obtain it would take in excess of 18 hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information. It is therefore exempt from release.

2. For the years 2007-2009, after the establishment of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, is there any aggregated data available on the total number of recorded cases of Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections?

Even if not broken down by month or specific hospital site, any available summary data would be helpful.

No such data exists. An aggregated data search for pseudomonas aeruginosa would not yield a total number of Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection cases, as a positive result does not equate to an infection, this information could only be determined by reviewing individual patient case notes.

3. Regarding patient deaths or ICU admissions where Pseudomonas aeruginosa was a contributing factor, please restrict your search to the Mater Hospital for the period June 2003 to May 2004. This may bring the enquiry within the time and cost limits.

A search for these dates would require a manual record review. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

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4. If the Public Health Agency (PHA) or any other body holds data from that period, could you please advise on how I might request that information directly from them?

We can re-confirm that the Estates Dept. did not carry out any water sampling for PsA prior the outbreak in 2012/2013.

You will need to contact PHA directly in order to ascertain if they hold the data. They can be contacted via foi.pha@hscni.net