

8 September 2025

## Furlow Palatoplasty Figures & Waiting Times

1. The total number of Furlow palatoplasty surgeries performed by the Trust during each of the following calendar years:

YEARS	FURLOW PALATOPLASTY	FURLOW RE-REPAIRS	
2015	8	<5	
2016	7	<5	
2017	15	<5	
2018	8	7	
2019	<5	<5	
2020	7	<5	
2021	10	5	
2022	11	5	
2023	14	7	
2024	9	<5	
2025 to 30.6.25	<5	<5	
<b>Total</b>			<b>134</b>

2. The average waiting time (in weeks) for each of the above years between:

YEARS	Average wait for surgery
2015	32 weeks
2016	23 weeks
2017	27 weeks
2018	19 weeks
2019	20 weeks
2020	27 weeks
2021	34 weeks
2022	22 weeks
2023	35 weeks
2024	29 weeks
2025 to 30.6.25	40 weeks

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**- The date of diagnosis or referral for Furlow repair and**

This is calculated from the date the patient is added to waiting list to date of surgery – what has been provided represents the average for each year

The Trust can confirm that the majority (if not all) of the patients included on the above list had a Furlow repair due to having VPI associated with cleft palate (bilateral cleft lip and palate, unilateral cleft lip and palate, hard and soft palate, soft palate only or a submucous cleft palate).

Where numbers are low we have indicated <5 (less than five) rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**- The date the surgery was performed**

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.