

09 September 2025

Smear Tests Results Waiting Times

I would like to request the following information under freedom of information:

1. What is the current wait time for smear results, that are taken at a GP Surgery within the Belfast Trust?

We do not have these broken down by GP's within the Belfast Trust area as this is a regional service.

Average wait time is 44 days at present for a cytology result.

92% HPV negative cases are reported within 2 weeks. If cytology is required (HPV positive) this process takes longer and currently we have 99% of these cases reported within 3 months.

2. What is the current wait time for test of cure smear results (taken at 6 month follow up appointment after a leep procedure) at a colposcopy clinic within the Belfast Trust?

This is the same as above these are not treated any different.

3. Why are many patients waiting 6 weeks or longer on test or cure smear results taken at a colposcopy clinic within the Belfast Trust? -to be specific what is causing these delays?

If the test is HPV negative, a result is issued once tested on the machine. If the test is HPV positive a cytology slide is made. This is then screened by at least 2 different screeners before being reported. This takes more time. Delays are caused by for example, staff shortages, equipment breakdowns and having a screening backlog.