

30 September 2025

Medical Professional Healthcare Standards Processes (MPHS) Initiated by Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

I am writing to request records concerning Medical, Professional and Healthcare Standards (MPHS) processes initiated by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust during the most recent full reporting year and previous reporting years from 2020. Specifically:

1. Number of MPHS processes initiated by the Trust

No central internal records were kept in relation MPHS matters prior to September 2022.

It would take more than 18 hours to locate, retrieve and extract information for the years 2020-2022. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to fees limits, 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.

I can however advise you that;

- The central record of MPHS processes kept from September 2022 incorporated files, which were open prior to September 2022 and were ongoing.
- MPHS processes are taken to include preliminary enquiries and formal Investigations.
- The response is based on MPHS processes initiated by full reporting year
- From September 2022 - September 2023, 12 processes were initiated.
- From September 2023 - September 2024, 17 process were initiated.
- From September 2024 - September 2025, 7 process were initiated.

2. Of those, how many resulted in formal actions (e.g. disciplinary sanctions, performance agreements, remediation training, etc.)

Less than five. Where numbers are low, we will not release the actual figure. This is to ensure that our staff / patients remain non-identifiable. Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data.

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We have therefore concluded that this information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to personal information relating to a third party.

3. Number of processes referred to the General Medical Council (GMC)

We can confirm that since 2020, 15 referrals have been made to the GMC by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust concerning doctors connected to Belfast Trust.

4. Number still open / in-progress at the end of each reporting period.

As of 29 August 2025, there are currently 17 processes opened in the Medical Directors Office.