

13 October 2025

Information on Suppliers Not Paid Within 30 Days

This is a request, under FOIA, for details of instances in which Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.

We request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers, which were not paid in within 30 days for the last six financial years (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2025):

- 1. Supplier Name**
- 2. Invoice Date**
- 3. Gross Invoice Value**
- 4. Payment Date**
- 5. Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is not in a position to share the above details concerning late payments as we believe this information to be exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43 (Commercial Interests).

Section 43(2) states that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

This is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT).

I can confirm that we have now carried out a PIT and the outcome is to maintain the exemption and withhold the information from release.

In reaching the decision to withhold the information requested, the Trust has considered fully its commitment to ensuring openness and transparency, where reasonably practicable, in all its activities.

However, you can access high-level information on expenditure to suppliers from our Annual Reports. These are published on the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust website. This report contains our Measure of Compliance with Public Sector Payment Policy, together with details of payments made in relation to Late Payment of Commercial Debt. In the most recent Annual Report for 2024/25, the information can be found on page 50 – see link below:

<https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/about/publications/#>