

20 October 2025

Neurology Records Pre-Recall

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting disclosure of records held by Belfast Trust relating to the handling of neurology concerns.

Please provide copies of all correspondence, internal memoranda, briefing notes, or policy papers generated or received between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2018 concerning:

- **Anticipated litigation or defence strategy relating to neurology services**
- **Legal advice or indemnity arrangements considered in respect of Dr Michael Watt or other neurology consultants**
- **Communications with external legal representatives, insurers, or government bodies in preparation for potential patient claims.**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust dealt with neurology concerns on an individual basis (patient-by-patient). Where an individual raised a concern, e.g. via a complaint, their concern was thoroughly investigated and a response provided to that individual. Therefore, we are unable to provide the information requested, as this is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal information relating to a third party. This is deemed to be personal information about another individual and disclosure would breach one or more of the principles of the Data Protection Act.

There were no strategy meetings to discuss legal matters during the timeframe indicated.

The focus for Belfast Trust was to ensure the correct identification of all patients who needed to be recalled and to arrange for their care and treatment to be reviewed.

There were no meetings with any external organisations to discuss any potential patient claims.

The Public Enquiry dealt with all concerns and, as such, the published Inquiry documentation should provide all the information required above.