

30 October 2025

Mental Health Bed Access and RESWS Involvement

For each of the financial years below, please outline the number of occasions where patients from your Trust experienced delays in accessing a bed in a mental health facility, where the individual had been assessed by a GP and/or Approved Social Worker as requiring detention for assessment under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, and where the delay met the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) definition of a protracted wait (6 hours or more):

- **2019/20**
- **2020/21**
- **2021/22**
- **2022/23**
- **2023/24**
- **2024/25**

We have received multiple requests from a group who appear to be acting as part of a campaign within the last 60 days:

35090 – Received 30/09/2025 (current request)
35095 – Received 01/10/2025
35115 – Received 02/10/2025
35127 - Received 03/10/2025

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information, provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Belfast Trust is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

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We are therefore applying exemption 12(4) to all of the above requests for information about mental health beds and waiting times.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply.

The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and public authorities the limit is £450.