

2 March 2026

DVT Ultrasound Pathway Data - Duplex or Doppler Ultrasound Scans

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the following information for December 2024 to November 2025, financial year 2024/25, or the most recent 12-month period available:

1. Scan volume

Total number of lower limb duplex or Doppler ultrasound scans performed for suspected deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

2573

2. Waiting times

a. Average time from order to completion, or request to scan completion, whichever your systems record.

Overall waiting time:

Mean: 1.42 days

Median: 0.84 days

Order to Completion

Referral Source	0 - 4Hrs	4 - 24Hrs	24 - 48Hrs	>48Hrs	Grand Total
Emergency Department	243	408	196	177	1024
GP Patient		1		6	7
Inpatient	228	291	185	148	852
Outpatient	114	254	151	171	690
Grand Total	585	954	532	502	2573

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b. If recorded, the number or percentage of patients who received their scan within:

- i. 4 hours**
- ii. between 4 and 24 hours**
- iii. between 24 and 48 hours**
- iv. more than 48 hours after request**

	0 - 4Hrs	4 - 24Hrs	24 - 48Hrs	>48Hrs	Grand Total
Emergency Department	24%	40%	19%	17%	100%
GP Patient	0%	14%	0%	86%	100%
Inpatient	27%	34%	22%	17%	100%
Outpatient	17%	37%	22%	25%	100%
Grand Total	23%	37%	21%	20%	100%

3. Overnight admissions

Number admitted overnight specifically to await their scan, if recorded. Any format is fine. If exact breakdowns are not available, please provide whatever waiting time data your systems hold with a brief note on what is measured.

It has been determined that it would take more than 18 hours to compile this information, as it would necessitate a manual interrogation of Radiology Information System and cross reference with other hospital patient management system data to identify patients that may have had to be admitted overnight to await their scan.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.