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Obesity Data and Wait Times

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request relates to local NHS service pressures associated with obesity and obesity-related illness. We are seeking comparable data across NHS Trusts on both access/waiting times and hospital demand.

Please forward the following information for your Trust, covering the last five financial years (2020/21 – 2024/25).

1. Waiting Times and Access Indicators (Local Service Strain).

a. Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) elective waiting time indicators, if held:

- Median RTT waiting time (in weeks)
- Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end)
- Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end)

b. The median waiting time for outpatient appointments in the following specialties:

- Endocrinology / Diabetes
- Cardiology
- Orthopaedics

Clarification Provided: As RTT is not reported in Northern Ireland, we are happy to receive the closest equivalent routinely reported access measures. Please providing referral to first outpatient appointment and added to waiting list to admission waiting time measures. Please provide these figures for the specialties indicate above.

<u>Outpatient Waiting List</u>	Specialty Description	CARDIOLOGY	ENDOCRINOLOGY & DIABETES	ORTHOPAEDIC
March 2021	> 18 Weeks	1438	267	10640
	> 52 Weeks	724	41	7202
March 2022	> 18 Weeks	1867	566	7853
	> 52 Weeks	817	112	5066
March 2023	> 18 Weeks	2635	834	6270
	> 52 Weeks	1592	313	3856
March 2024	> 18 Weeks	3142	1370	7021
	> 52 Weeks	1998	806	2763
March 2025	> 18 Weeks	3812	1866	10581
	> 52 Weeks	2353	1134	5843

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Referral to First Appointment Date (Median)

Specialty Description	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025
Adult Cardiology	46	71	34	59	61
Endocrinology & Diabetes	55	105	72	50	52
Orthopaedics	138	156	140	174	107

<u>Inpatient Waiting List (Excludes PL & Suspended)</u>	Specialty Description	CARDIOLOGY	ENDOCRINOLOGY & DIABETES	ORTHOPAEDIC
March 2021	> 18 Weeks	31	0	45
	> 52 Weeks	<10	0	37
March 2022	> 18 Weeks	<10	0	118
	> 52 Weeks	<10	0	90
March 2023	> 18 Weeks	15	0	235
	> 52 Weeks	<10	0	155
March 2024	> 18 Weeks	19	0	330
	> 52 Weeks	<10	0	217
March 2025	> 18 Weeks	19	0	330
	> 52 Weeks	<10	0	169

Date Added to Waiting List to Admission (Excludes PL & Suspended)

Specialty Description	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025
Adult Cardiology	58	59	61	42	55
Endocrinology & Diabetes	18	20	43	23	34
Orthopaedics	171	210	193	257	181

2. Obesity-Related Hospital Admissions and Demand

a. The total number of inpatient admissions where obesity was recorded as:

- A primary diagnosis (ICD-10 code E66) and/or
- A secondary diagnosis

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<i>Obesity in a Primary or Secondary Postion</i>	
FY Year	Total Inpatient Admissions
2020/21	1218
2021/22	1485
2022/23	1428
2023/24	1831
2024/25	1443
Grand Total	6293

b. The total number of admissions for the following obesity-related conditions (where obesity is a major risk factor), if available:

- Type 2 diabetes (E11)
- Coronary heart disease / myocardial infarction (I20-I25)
- Stroke (I60-I69)

<i>Obesity in Primary Diagnosis with above conditions</i>	
FY Year	Inpatients
2020/21	<10
2021/22	<10
2022/23	<10
2023/24	<10
2024/25	<10
Grand Total	12

c. If held, the total number of admissions specifically linked to bariatric surgery or specialist weight-management intervention.

<i>Obesity in Primary Diagnosis with Surgery</i>	
FY Year	Inpatients
2020/21	<10
2021/22	<10
2022/23	<10
2023/24	<10
2024/25	<10
Grand Total	<10

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Notes:-

- 2b Where Obesity was recorded as a Primary Diagnosis and the conditions listed at 2b have been coded by the clinical coding team, the Trust's Information Department have used this method of approach for the above findings.
- 2c Where Obesity was recorded as a Primary Diagnosis by the Clinical Coding Team; the Trust's Information Department extracted all records and cross-referenced these with the Clinical Coding Team to identify any bariatric surgery or weight-management intervention. Findings are as above.

Use of <10 (less than 10) - Belfast Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <10 has been provided where figures are low to prevent the identification of individuals when releasing small numbers in statistical datasets.

Exact figures are withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party. To provide this information could lead to identification of the individual(s) and so disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

In reaching this decision, the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area that the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition, the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.