

24 April 2026

## **MRI Safety Incidents, Adverse Events, and Operational Impact**

**I am seeking aggregated data relating to MRI-related adverse events or safety incidents recorded within your Trust.**

**To minimise the administrative burden of this request, please provide information already recorded in existing reports, incident management systems, or summaries where available, and only where it can be retrieved within the cost limit.**

**Please provide the following information for the most recent five financial years available, or the maximum period available if five years is not readily retrievable.**

### **1. Total number of reported MRI-related adverse events or safety incidents within your Trust.**

There were 443 reported incidents that had a BHSCT MRI department as a location over the last 5 years; however, the functionality of Datix does not allow this data to be further sub-categorised to the level required to respond to this specific question.

Belfast Trust estimate that compliance with this (element of the) request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. To undertake this exercise would necessitate a manual interrogation of individual records. Therefore, under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

### **2. Where recorded, a breakdown of incidents by category. If available, examples may include:**

- **Patient burns during MRI scanning**
- **Projectile incidents involving ferromagnetic objects**
- **Non-MRI compatible equipment taken into the MRI scanner room (Zone IV)**
- **Damage to the MRI scanner or associated equipment**
- **MRI quench events**
- **Adverse events related to implants or devices**
- **Patient injury or near-miss incidents relating to MRI safety**

24 April 2026

If incidents are recorded using different or broader internal categories, please provide those categories instead.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
No Harm to Person(s)	48	57	69	77	69
Harm to Person(s) - Physical	7	12	9	5	13
Harm to Person(s) - Psychological	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Death - NOT known to be related to the service user's care or treatment	0	0	0	0	0
Damage or Loss to Property/ Equipment/ Trust Reputation	0	0	0	0	<5
Impact on service provision/ standards	17	8	19	13	13

Datix functionality utilises broader internal categories, please see above table for breakdown.

Belfast Trust estimate that compliance with this (element of the) request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. To undertake this exercise would necessitate a manual interrogation of individual records. Therefore, under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

**Use of <5 (less than five):** We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

**3. Where recorded, please indicate:**

- **The number of incidents per year**
- **Whether the incident was classified as harm, no harm, or near miss**

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
No Harm to Person(s)	48	57	69	77	69
Harm to Person(s) - Physical	7	12	9	5	13
Harm to Person(s) - Psychological	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Death - NOT known to be related to the service user's care or treatment	0	0	0	0	0
Damage or Loss to Property/ Equipment/ Trust Reputation	0	0	0	0	<5
Impact on service provision/ standards	17	8	19	13	13

24 April 2026

**If available within existing records, please indicate whether incidents involved:**

- **Ferromagnetic equipment or objects entering the MRI scanner room**
- **Non-MRI compatible equipment brought into the MRI scanner room**
- **Damage to the MRI scanner**

Following reasonable and proportionate searches, Belfast Trust has established that the information you requested is not held centrally. Datix functionality utilises broader internal categories; therefore, we are unable to answer this specific question.

In line with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Information Commissioner's Office guidance, Belfast Trust is required to provide only recorded information that it holds and is not required to create new information or collate data from multiple sources to answer a request.

**4. Operational impact, where recorded:**

- **Estimated scanner downtime resulting from incidents (hours or days, if recorded)**
- **Whether the scanner required service intervention or repair**
- **Number of MRI scans cancelled due to incidents**
- **Number of patients rescheduled due to incidents**

As per Q4 response – This information is not held centrally.

**5. Financial impact, where recorded:**

- **Any estimated cost of repair, servicing, or replacement**
- **Any estimated operational cost associated with scanner downtime**

As per Q5 response – This information is not held centrally.

To identify the costs required to respond to Question 5, would require a manual trawl of all invoices associated with all contracts to include MRI equipment. To provide the information would require more than 18 hours work.

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.

24 April 2026

**6. If recorded, please indicate the incident reporting system used (for example Datix or other internal incident reporting systems).**

The reporting system used by Belfast Trust is Datixweb platform.

**If possible, please could data be provided in spreadsheet format, such as Excel or CSV.**

**If responding to the full request would exceed the cost limit, I would be grateful if you could:**

- **Provide any portion of the data that can be supplied within the cost limit, and**
- **Advise how the request might be refined to allow further information to be provided.**

**Please note that I am requesting aggregated incident data only, and I am not requesting any identifiable patient or staff information.**