

30 April 2026

NI Cancer Registry Contact About Childhood Cancer Cases

Time period: 01 June 2025 to present.

1. During this period, did Belfast HSC Trust receive any contact from the Public Health Agency (PHA) and/or the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) about childhood cancer cases in Mid Ulster, including any reference to a spike, cluster, or increased incidence?

Please answer YES or NO.

Yes - Paediatric response – see below.

No - Adolescent and Young Adult Service (AYA)

2. If YES, please provide:

- the date(s) of first contact (and any subsequent contact),
17 October 2025

- who contacted you (organisation and job title/role),
Director of Public Health

- who in BHSCT was contacted (job title/role; names may be redacted),
and
Karl McKeever, Chair of Division, Child Health and NISTAR

- the method (email/phone/meeting/other).
Email

3. Please provide copies of all communications and attachments held by BHSCT between BHSCT and PHA/NICR relating to this topic during the period (emails, letters, meeting invites/minutes/notes, and any call notes where recorded).

If any information is withheld, please state the exemption(s) relied upon and provide redacted copies where possible

We have attached all the communications we are able to.

Please see attached emails:

30 April 2026

35991 - NI Cancer Registry Contact About Childhood Cancer Cases – Attachment 1
35991 - NI Cancer Registry Contact About Childhood Cancer Cases – Attachment 2
35991 - NI Cancer Registry Contact About Childhood Cancer Cases – Attachment 3

Some of the information has been redacted. This is because:

a) it contains personal information relating to third parties which makes it exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act which pertains to Personal Information Relating to a Third Party with disclosure contravening one or more of the Data Protection Principles; and

b) it contains information that would inhibit the free and frank provision of advice the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation and is therefore exempt from release under Section 36(2)(b)(i)(ii) – Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs. This is a qualified exemption and as such a Public Interest Test has been carried out and the Qualified Person's opinion sought as necessary.

In addition to this, one of the attachments contains a report called 'Assessment of potential cluster of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in Children Within Mid Ulster Parliamentary Constituency December 2025'. This is not our document and so to obtain a copy you will need to directly contact:

NI Cancer Registry
Centre for Public Health
Mulhouse Building
Grosvenor Road
Belfast
BT12 6DP

Tel: +44 (0)28 9097 6028
Email: nicr@qub.ac.uk
Web: www.qub.ac.uk/nicr