

05 May 2026

## **Adult Urology Productivity and Automated Stapling Technology**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding the adoption of modern surgical technology within adult urology services, specifically regarding the treatment of phimosis and related conditions.**

### **Information Requested:**

**1. Does the Trust utilize disposable circular stapling anastomat devices (e.g., ZSR, CircCurer, or generic automated stapling equivalents) for adult therapeutic procedures?**

No

**2. If yes, please specify the preferred mechanism of the device used (e.g., pistol-grip or dual-handle/scissor-grip construction).**

N/A

**3. What is the average theatre time allocated for a traditional hand-sutured procedure versus an automated stapler procedure for adult patients?**

The average theatre time of a day case treatment for phimosis is 45 minutes. Unable to provide time of automated stapler as not used in department

**4. Are these procedures performed in a Day Case unit (e.g., at Belfast City Hospital) or a Main Operating Theatre under general anaesthesia?**

Procedure can be carried out in both day case setting or main theatre under general anaesthetic. Procedure is also routinely carried out under local anaesthetic.

**5. In accordance with the Montgomery v Lanarkshire (2015) ruling, does the Trust provide information to adult patients on the choice between traditional freehand surgery and automated stapling alternatives?**

The automated stapling is not a device used by Urology Consultants in Day Procedure Unit BCH/ BCH Tower Theatres or MIH Theatres.