

22 June 2026

Timing in endoscope reprocessing

Belfast Trust notes that this request (FOI 37199) is closely related to a previous request submitted (FOI 36655, received 25 March 2026), which has now been responded to and closed.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities may aggregate two or more requests where they are made by the same applicant and relate to the same or similar information. In line with Section 12 of the Act and associated guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office, Belfast Trust has considered these requests together as they form part of a series of related enquiries.

Accordingly, FOI 37199 has been assessed in the context of FOI 36655, and the combined scope of the requests has been taken into account when determining Belfast Trust's response.

Regarding timing in endoscope reprocessing:

1. How many endoscopes are reprocessed at your trust per month?

We can confirm that the information you have requested is already reasonably accessible to you and is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information is available in a previous Freedom of Information response published by Belfast Trust and can be accessed at the following location:

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q1 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

2. Is the time interval between procedure and pre-cleaning recorded?

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. The start or finish time is not timestamped.

a. If so, how is this recorded?

Refer to Q2

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b. What is the average time taken to reach a pre-cleaned state?

Refer to Q2

3. Is the time interval between pre-cleaning and manual cleaning recorded?

Yes

a. If so, how is this recorded?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q4 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

b. What is the average time taken to reach manual cleaning?

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. The finish time of the pre-clean is not recorded.

4. Are there timestamps for individual stages of reprocessing?

Yes

a. How are timestamps recorded during reprocessing?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q5 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

5. Is the duration of manual cleaning recorded?

Yes

a. If so, how is this recorded?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q7 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

b. What is the average duration of manual cleaning?

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested as the start finish time recorded are not reflective of true start finish times.

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6. Is endoscope turnaround time monitored?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q9 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

- a. If so, how is this monitored?**
Refer to Q6
- b. What is the average turnaround time now?**
Refer to Q6
- c. What was it 6 months ago?**
Refer to Q6

7. How are critical time barriers monitored?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q11 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

8. Is there a staff member responsible for time management?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q11 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

- a. If so, who undertakes this responsibility?**
Refer to Q8

Regarding staffing and traceability:

9. How many staff members are designated for endoscopy reprocessing?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q2 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

10. Are staffing levels for manual cleaning monitored?

The staffing levels for reprocessing endoscopes varies depending on clinical activity, including scheduled and additional procedure lists. Consequently, there is no

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standard staffing level for manual clean, as volumes fluctuate in line with service demand.

a. How many staff members are involved in this process?

Refer to Q10

11. Are staffing levels for pre-cleaning monitored?

Staffing levels for pre-cleaning are not monitored.

a. How many staff members are involved in the process?

Endoscope Department - 0.16 WTE/Session

12. How many staff members are involved in the transport process (from pre-clean to manual clean)?

One staff member is involved in the transport process (from pre-clean to manual clean)?

13. Does your trust use an electronic tracking/traceability system?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q3 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:

[Endoscope Reprocessing April 2026](#)

a. If so, what is the name/type of the system?

Refer to Q13

14. How do staff know which scopes should be reprocessed first?

Service Users will send priority requests each day and the Senior Assistant Technical officer (SATO) will oversee this.

15. Would staff be interested in time-lapse indicator labels?

This is a hypothetical proposal. Staff interest has not been formally assessed, and any consideration of new products would follow established procurement processes.

Regarding delays in endoscope reprocessing:

16. Is delay information formally recorded?

a. If so, how is this recorded?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q1 'Delays within Endoscopy Reprocessing' Page 3 of 4 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:

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b. What are the most common causes of delays in reprocessing?

The most common causes of delays in reprocessing would include staffing constraints, equipment availability or downtime, complexity of endoscopes requiring reprocessing, quality assurance requirements, and logistical or system-related challenges.

17. How many scopes, on average, are not reprocessed within one hour per month?

Please refer to FOI 36655 Timing in Endoscope Reprocessing, Q2 'Delays within Endoscopy Reprocessing' Page 3 of 4 (*37199 Timing in endoscope reprocessing_Attachment 1*).

Or access the published FOI 36655 via Belfast Trust Disclosure Log, link below:
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a. What was this figure a year ago?

A specific timeframe for 'a year ago' has not been defined, therefore the information cannot be reliably extracted or provided.

18. How many endoscopes are returned for reprocessing per month due to delays?

Belfast Trust does not routinely record the number of endoscopes returned for reprocessing specifically due to delays.

a. What was this figure a year ago?

Refer to Q18

19. How many endoscopes are reprocessed out of sequence per month?

A specific timeframe has not been defined; therefore, the data cannot be accurately identified or provided.

a. What was this figure a year ago?

Refer to Q19

20. What is the distance travelled by a scope in-between pre-cleaning and manual cleaning?

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested.

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**21. How many procedures are delayed per month due to
endoscopes being unavailable?**

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Belfast Trust can confirm that it does not hold information on the number of procedures delayed specifically due to endoscopes being unavailable.

- a. Why are scopes unavailable?**
Refer to Q21
- b. What was this figure a year ago?**
Refer to Q21