

17 July 2026

Questions concerning Named Consultant and Hyponatraemia Inquiry

Date named consultant at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children was placed under investigation by the GMC in relation to the death of a patient?

Was consultant permitted to keep working at this point? If so, can the Trust explain the rationale?

Did the Trust raise any concerns about the consultant continuing to work at the hospital after the findings of the hyponatraemia inquiry, which was published in 2018? If so, can you share any communications between the GMC and the Belfast Trust?

Can the Trust tell me, was it ever made aware of concerns relating to the consultant and treatment provided to any other children/patients during his time at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children? If so, please detail any complaints.

Were there any specific concerns raised with the Trust about the consultant's involvement with a patient who died in 2019? If so, can you share those concerns?

What exact date was the Trust made aware of the consultant's intention to retire and were any reasons given?

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust neither confirms nor denies that it holds the information requested above.

The request asks for highly sensitive personal data regarding identifiable individuals, specifically relating to potential regulatory investigations, workplace restrictions, rationale for employment decisions, complaints, and retirement details.

We are withholding confirmation or denial under Section 40(5B)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Confirming or denying whether the requested information exists would, in itself, disclose personal data regarding an identifiable individual's activities, performance, or employment details and would therefore breach the Data Protection principles set out in Article 5(1)(a) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), which requires that personal data be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently.

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As this is an absolute exemption under the Freedom of Information Act, there is no requirement to consider whether the public interest favours confirming or denying that the information exists.

Further information on the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-Related Deaths (IHRD) can be found here: [Report of the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia related Deaths](#)