

20 August 2026

Neurology Recall, Information Handling & Exemptions

This request concerns the Northern Ireland Neurology Recall from 2018 to the present date, including post-recall patient care, deceased patient review, record disclosure, audit trails, complaints, reviews, litigation handling, and related information governance. Please answer the following questions:

1. Has your organisation ever applied, considered applying, or been asked by another public authority to apply any of the following FOIA exemptions or restrictions to information relating to the Neurology Recall or its aftermath:

- a. Section 23 — security bodies;

No

- b. Section 24 — national security;

No

- c. Section 30 — investigations and proceedings;

No

- d. Section 31 — law enforcement;

No

- e. Any “neither confirm nor deny” position;

The Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format. To check would require a manual trawl of records. A sampling exercise indicates that each record would take around 60 minutes to locate, review, retrieve and extract any recorded information. This would substantially exceed the appropriate limit stated in the Freedom of Information legislation and is therefore exempt from release under [Section 12](#) which relates to the ‘Appropriate Limit’.

- f. Closed material procedures;

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

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g. Public interest immunity;

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

h. Any equivalent internal classification, sensitivity marking, restricted handling instruction, or special handling arrangement?

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

2. If yes, please provide the following information for each exemption, restriction, classification or handling arrangement identified:

The answer was not yes to the above, therefore Question 2 is not applicable (N/A).

a. The exemption, restriction or handling category relied upon;

N/A

b. The date range during which it was applied or considered;

N/A

c. The general category of information affected, for example audit trails, patient records, deceased patient review material, complaints, litigation material, disclosure material, investigation material, policy material or correspondence;

N/A

d. Which department, team, public authority or external body applied, requested or advised on that handling;

N/A

e. Whether the position was applied to information itself, or to the duty to confirm or deny whether information was held.

N/A

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- 3. Has your organisation ever relied on a “neither confirm nor deny” position in relation to information concerning the Neurology Recall, post-recall patient care, deceased patient review, audit trails, record disclosure, litigation handling, complaints or related reviews?**

See response to Question 1(e).

- 4. If yes, please state:**

The answer was not yes to the above, therefore Question 4 is not applicable (N/A).

- a. The date or approximate date of the decision;**

N/A

- b. The exemption relied upon;**

N/A

- c. The general subject matter affected;**

N/A

- d. Whether a public interest test was carried out, where required.**

N/A

- 5. Please provide copies of any policies, guidance, internal instructions, memoranda, correspondence or decision records explaining the use or consideration of the above exemptions, classifications, restrictions or handling arrangements in relation to the Neurology Recall or its aftermath.**

See attached email dated 23 December 2022 which details a local level internal arrangement for the Trust’s FOI team to follow when handling enquiries relating to the Independent Neurology Inquiry (INI).

Redactions have been carried out to remove any information that does not relate to Neurology in any way, as well as the names of any third parties - which are exempt from release under [Section 40\(2\)](#) of the FOI Act which pertains to ‘Personal Information Relating to A Third Party’.