



Freedom of Information



The Freedom of Information Act provides the public with a legal right to access general information held by Belfast Trust. It means that anyone, anywhere can ask for information we hold.

There are no time limits on how far back a person can gain access to information, as long as we hold it on record.

It was introduced to ensure that publicly funded organisations operate in a spirit of openness and transparency, and that they remain publicly accountable.

Belfast Trust fully supports this legislation and will make available as much information as possible. Where it is not possible to supply information, we will explain fully the reasons why.

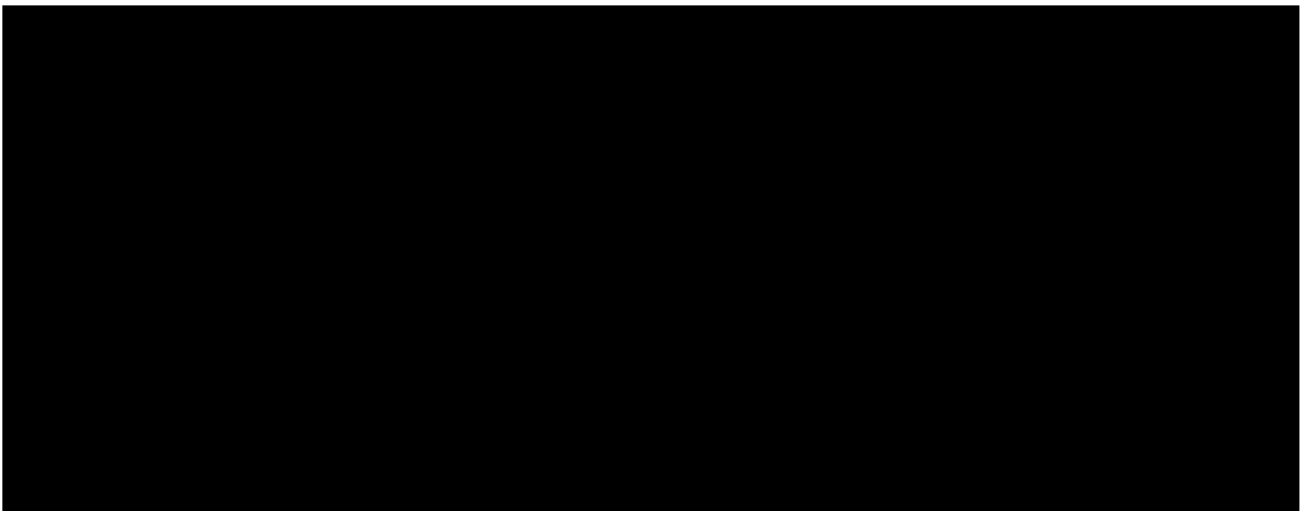
You can read more about Freedom of Information on the [Information Commissioner's website](#).



Anyone, anywhere can ask for information we hold.

Personal information requests do not fall under FOI

The Freedom of Information Act does not provide access to information of a personal nature.



What to do if you receive an FOI request

The Public Liaison team is responsible for responding to Freedom of Information requests, which must be received in writing.

If you receive an FOI request, please contact the Public Liaison team immediately.

The Trust has 20 working days to reply, starting from the date the request was received, so time is important.

FOI requests can be emailed to: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Frequently asked questions

When is information covered by the Freedom of Information Act?

The Freedom of Information Act covers all recorded information held by the Trust. It is not limited to official documents and it covers, for example:

- drafts
- emails
- notes
- recordings of telephone conversations
- CCTV recordings

The Freedom of Information Act isn't limited to information you create.

It also covers, for example, letters you receive from members of the public, although there may be a good reason not to release them.

Why have we been asked for this information?

A requester does not need to give the Trust a reason for wanting the information.

On the contrary, the Trust must justify refusing to provide the information.

Who can make a Freedom of Information request?

Anyone, anywhere can make a Freedom of Information request. They do not have to be a UK citizen or resident in the UK.

Freedom of Information requests can also be made by organisations, for example a newspaper, campaign group or company.

