

1 September 2026

Children's Cancer Cases

1. The actual number of newly diagnosed ALL cases in children under 16, Northern Ireland-wide, for 2023, produced by the cross-check described in the Trust's response to FOI/37123 (i.e. the result of that verification, not only the process).

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2. The number of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia (all subtypes, not limited to ALL) in patients aged under 16, treated at RBHSC, by quarter, from Q1 2018 to the most recent complete quarter. An aggregate count is sufficient; no patient-identifiable information is required or sought.

Clarification: The request is for the number of newly diagnosed leukaemia cases (all subtypes) in patients aged under 16, treated at RBHSC, by quarter, from Q1 2018 to the most recent complete quarter.

The Trust considers this information exempt from release under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) - Information Accessible by Other Means.

Information for 2018-2023 is publicly available from the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) website [Northern Ireland Cancer Registry | N. Ireland Cancer Registry](#)

Data for 2024 onwards remains subject to verification and will be published once complete. It is therefore currently exempt from release under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – Information Intended for Future Publication.

3. The same figures as in paragraph 2, for patients aged 15–24 (AYA service), by quarter, for the same period.

Clarification: Asks for the same figures — same format, same time period — but for patients aged 15–24 under the AYA service. So question 3 is asking for quarterly counts in the same style as question 2, just for the 15–24 age group

The Trust considers this information exempt from release under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) - Information Accessible by Other Means.

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- 4. Where held, a breakdown of the figures in paragraphs 2 and 3 by home HSC Trust of residence and/or Local Government District of residence, aggregated and with small numbers suppressed in line with the Trust's standard disclosure control policy, rather than withholding the whole dataset on those grounds. If suppression is required for some cells, please still provide the remaining, unsuppressed figures.**

Clarification: Asking for a breakdown, by home HSC Trust of residence and/or Local Government District, of both of those datasets (the under-16 figures from question 2 and the AYA figures from question 3), with small numbers suppressed per your standard disclosure control policy rather than the datasets being withheld entirely.

The Trust considers this information exempt from release under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) - Information Accessible by Other Means.

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Data for 2024 onwards remains subject to verification and will be published once complete. It is therefore currently exempt from release under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – Information Intended for Future Publication.

- 5. Confirmation of whether the Trust has, independently of any request from the Public Health Agency, reviewed or discussed geographic patterns in paediatric or AYA cancer referrals in the last five years, and if so, any related records (reports, minutes, correspondence).**

No.

- 6. Confirmation of whether the Trust has since been asked, by the Public Health Agency or otherwise, to repeat or extend the 2023-only ALL cross-check described in FOI/37123 to include 2024 and/or 2025 data, and if so, the outcome. If not, please confirm whether the Trust would be willing to carry out such an exercise and, if so, on what timescale.**

Yes. On the 26 June 2026 the Public Health Agency (PHA) requested details of newly diagnosed ALL cases (ICD code C91.0) in children aged 0-14 years who were resident in the Mid Ulster Parliamentary Constituency at the date of diagnosis for calendar years 2024 and 2025. This excluded children experiencing a relapse of ALL.

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Following a subsequent telephone discussion with the PHA, the scope of the exercise was extended to include all newly diagnosed cases of ALL in Northern Ireland for the period 2024-2026.