

07 September 2026

Adult Urology Pathway Audit: Productivity, Capacity, Consent & Circumcision Outsourcing

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to formally submit a comprehensive request for information regarding adult urology pathway productivity, surgical technology adoption, patient consent governance, and associated financial expenditure on external service delivery, specifically concerning adult therapeutic circumcision (medically necessary surgical procedures for adult patients diagnosed with pathological conditions such as severe phimosis, balanitis, or lichen sclerosus).

To ensure absolute clarity and prevent administrative ambiguity, this request is restricted strictly to adult therapeutic circumcision. It explicitly excludes paediatric or children's surgery pathways, non-therapeutic/ritual procedures, and unrelated general urology sub-specialties.

The information sought is structured into the following specific sections:

1. Procedure Volumes and Waiting List Metrics

- a. What is the total volume of adult therapeutic circumcisions (identified via OPCS code N30.3 or equivalent clinical coding) performed directly by the Trust in the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26?**

FY2024/25 – 90 circumcisions performed
FY2025/26 – 137 circumcisions performed.

Notes:-

Q1 - N30.3 is the code for a circumcision if so stated by the clinician, there wouldn't be any way to pick up nontherapeutic or ritual from the code unless it was state in the notes to that effect.

- b. What is the current total number of patients on the urology elective waiting list specifically for this procedure, and what is the current median waiting time from "Decision to Treat"?**

The total number of patients on the Urology elective waiting list is 206. The median waiting time is currently 133 days.

2. Capacity Modelling and Innovation Evaluation

- a. Given that the Trust previously recorded an average theatre time of 45 minutes for traditional suture-based day-case procedures, has the urology directorate or trust management conducted any internal**

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productivity assessments, capacity-gain calculations, or financial value-for-money reviews regarding the adoption of a 10-minute outpatient stapler-assisted model (such as ZSR or CircCurer) over the last 36 months?

The Trust has not conducted any internal productivity assessments, capacity-gain calculations, or financial value-for-money reviews relating to the adoption of ZSR, CircCurer, or similar stapler-assisted circumcision devices during the period specified.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that Belfast Trust does not hold the information requested.

b. If such assessments have been conducted, please provide summary documentation, business cases, or outcome metrics.

As no such assessments were conducted, the Trust does not hold any summary documentation, business cases, or outcome metrics within the scope of this request.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that Belfast Trust does not hold the information requested.

3. Montgomery v Lanarkshire Governance and Patient Choice

In the Trust's previous correspondence, it was noted that automated stapling devices are not utilised because they are "not a device used by Urology Consultants." In accordance with the legal standard established in Montgomery v Lanarkshire [2015] regarding informed consent and material risks/alternative treatments:

a. What specific clinical governance protocol or guidance is provided to Belfast Trust urology consultants when an adult patient explicitly inquires about modern, minimally invasive surgical alternatives (such as disposable circular stapling devices) that are widely recognized in modern surgical practice but are not stocked or procured by this Trust?

The Trust does not hold recorded information describing a specific protocol for responding to enquiries about ZSR or CircCurer devices.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that Belfast Trust does not hold the information requested.

b. Are patients formally advised of alternative techniques and devices available outside the Trust's standard formulary when discussing material treatment options?

The Trust does not hold a policy or guidance document requiring patients to be routinely advised of circumcision devices or techniques not used within Trust services.

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Therefore, in accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that Belfast Trust does not hold the information requested.

4. Private Sector Outsourcing and External Insourcing Expenditure

a. Outsourcing:

Over the last three financial years (2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26), has the Trust commissioned any independent sector or private healthcare providers to perform adult therapeutic circumcisions? If so, what was the total financial expenditure incurred and the total volume of procedures outsourced?

The Trust has not commissioned any independent sector or private healthcare providers to perform adult therapeutic circumcisions within the specified timeframe.

b. Insourcing:

Over the same three financial years, has the Trust utilized external clinical insourcing companies to deliver additional urology theatre lists (e.g., weekend or evening lists) on Trust premises? If so, what was the total expenditure and procedure volume for adult circumcisions?

No external clinical insourcing companies have been accessed for delivery of additional urology theatre lists within the specified timeframe.

c. Technological Usage in External Pathways:

Are the private sector or external insourcing providers contracted by the Trust permitted to utilise modern disposable circular stapling devices (such as ZSR/CircCurer) for these procedures, even if internal Trust urology consultants do not utilise them?

As the Trust has not commissioned independent sector or insourcing providers to perform adult therapeutic circumcisions during the period specified, no recorded information is held regarding the use of ZSR, CircCurer, or similar devices by such providers.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that Belfast Trust does not hold the information requested.

If any part of this request is considered exempt under the Act, I request that you release all non-exempt portions and provide clear statutory justification (including exact section numbers) for any refusals.