

08 September 2026

Information on Diagnosis of E-Coli Infection

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information regarding diagnoses of *E. coli* infection recorded by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Please could you provide the following:

- The total number of *E. coli* diagnoses recorded by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for each of the last five complete calendar years, broken down by year.
- If available, please provide the figures separately for each year from 2021 to 2025.

The total number of hospital acquired *E. coli* infections from positive blood results, for each year from 2021 to current date, are as follows:

HOSPITAL ACQUIRED E.COLI. INFECTIONS - POSITIVE BLOOD RESULTS						
SITE	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (Apr-Aug)
BCH	49	58	64	82	51	29
BPR	26	33	19	34	33	15
MIH	113	96	69	64	76	35
MPH	13	<10	18	17	16	<10
RBHSC	<10	13	13	12	<10	<10
RMH	<10	<10	<10	10	11	<10
RVH	235	242	252	241	273	150
Total	448	460	442	460	462	243

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- If the Trust holds the information in a more detailed format, such as by age group, hospital, or type of *E. coli* infection, I would also be grateful if you could provide this where reasonably practicable. If any part of this request is exempt from disclosure, please provide the information that can be released and explain which exemption is being relied upon for any information withheld. I would prefer to receive the information electronically, ideally in a spreadsheet or table format.

Detailed format of age group, and hospital site, for hospital acquired *E. coli* infections from positive blood results, for each year from 2021 to current date, is as follows:

HOSPITAL ACQUIRED E.COLI. INFECTIONS - AGE RANGES						
AGE RANGE	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (Apr-Aug)
AGE 0 - 10	<10	17	15	15	<10	<10
AGE 11 - 20	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
AGE 21 - 30	<10	13	12	10	10	11
AGE 31 - 40	<10	15	15	15	17	<10
AGE 41 - 50	12	16	15	24	26	13
AGE 51 - 60	43	43	40	52	49	24
AGE 61 - 70	78	83	104	105	87	60
AGE 71 - 80	111	120	86	114	128	56
AGE 81 - 90	117	95	112	94	104	58
AGE 90>	64	57	41	27	33	<10
Total	448	460	442	460	462	243

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Use of <10 (less than ten): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018