

28 September 2026

Five-Year Plan for Northern Ireland's Diabetic Eye Screening Programme

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this request is concerning any five-year strategic, service, commissioning or development plan relating to the Northern Ireland's Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (NIDESP/DESP).

For this request, “five-year plan” includes any preliminary, draft, work-in-progress, awaiting-approval, approved or final version.

Please provide:

1. Confirmation of whether such a plan exists or is under development, the period it is intended to cover, and its current approval status.

The Belfast Trust can confirm that there is a preliminary revenue business case being developed which will look at the next 5 financial years of service delivery for DESP.

2. A copy of the most recent version held by the Trust, whether draft, work in progress or final, together with any associated implementation plan, business case or options appraisal.

The PHA will hold the most recent version of this business case. The PHA can be contacted by email: foi.pha@hscni.net

3. Any papers, minutes, briefing documents or substantive correspondence from January 2025 to the date of this request concerning the development or approval of the plan, including communications between Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Public Health Agency.

Please see attached minutes – 38228 - DESP - Operational Meeting 30.7.2026 – Attachment 1

4. Any recorded information setting out the purpose, scope, rationale or trigger for any current or planned review of DESP administrative functions, including when any such review was first proposed or commissioned, how it relates to the five-year plan, and how it relates to any previous DESP service reviews.

The review of DESP administrative functions was commissioned by the Service Manager to determine the requirements for the service to aid with the completion of

28 September 2026

the revenue business case being developed by the PHA. This is separate to any previous DESP service reviews carried out.

5. Any recorded workforce implications associated with the plan, including proposed changes to staffing establishment, workforce numbers, posts, roles, management structures, vacancy management, redeployment, redundancy or organisational structure.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. There are no documented workforce implications identified at this stage.

6. Any recorded financial assumptions, savings or efficiency targets, funding arrangements, workforce savings or anticipated reductions in staffing expenditure or funded posts associated with the plan.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. There are no financial assumptions of efficiency targets identified at this stage.

7. Any recorded information concerning the governance and approval process, including the bodies or committees expected to approve the plan and any anticipated approval date.

Revenue business cases follow the approval process as set out in the HSC guidance Better Business Cases NI. Resources can be found at [Revenue Business Cases \(RBCs\)](#)

8. Any recorded information concerning trade-union involvement, including which union(s) have been involved or consulted, the nature of that involvement, and whether any union has agreed, approved or endorsed the plan.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. There has been no trade union involvement at this stage.

9. Any Equality Impact Assessment, equality screening, Rural Needs Impact Assessment or other impact assessment completed, drafted or proposed in connection with the plan.

Where no recorded information is held in relation to an individual point, please confirm this separately.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. There has been no impact assessments completed at this stage of the process.