Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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FOI/38564

02 November 2026

Pressure-Relieving Equipment and Pressure Ulcer Prevention

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following about the Trust's pressure-relieving equipment and pressure ulcer prevention.

1. The Trust's spend on pressure-relieving support surfaces (mattresses and mattress replacement systems, overlays, cushions, and any automated turning, lateral rotation or turn-assist devices) in each financial year, split by purchase, rental or hire, and managed service, and by manufacturer and supplier.

We would redirect you to the Business Services Organisation (BSO) who would be best placed to respond.

The contact email for Freedom of Information requests for same is: Foi.bso@hscni.net

2. For dynamic (powered) mattresses that are rented, hired or provided under a managed service: the supplier, the contract or framework used, its start and end dates, and the number of rental days (or units) and the cost in each financial year.

As Question 1

3. The number of pressure-relieving mattresses the Trust owned at 31 March 2026, by type (high-specification foam, hybrid, dynamic or alternating air, and lateral turning or rotation), and the date of any planned replacement or re-procurement.

As Question 1

4. The Trust's current mattress or support surface selection policy and repositioning standard (a link or copy is enough), and whether the Trust uses any automated turning, lateral rotation or turn-assist device, with the product name and number in use.

The Trust selects mattresses and pressure-redistributing support surfaces based on a holistic, individualised assessment and clinical judgement. Considerations include the patient's mobility and ability to reposition independently, skin condition and any existing pressure damage, pain, clinical deterioration, palliative status, body weight and wider care needs. The suitability of the selected surface is reviewed following provision and whenever the patient's clinical condition or care needs change.

Relevant guidance is set out in:

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The BHSCT Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management Policy, Version 4, March 2026, please see Attachment 1 – Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management attached, the visual guidance within the Bed and Mattress Resource Folder (Appendix 1).

The Community Nursing Mattress Flow Chart, Version 1.0, June 2025, please see Attachment 2 - Community Nursing Mattress Flow Chart

The Management of Bariatric Patient/Client Policy, this policy is under development and cannot be shared. This information is exempt under Section 22 - Information intended for future publication.

Repositioning requirements are recorded within an individualised care plan. The planned frequency and level of assistance take account of skin and tissue tolerance, mobility, overall clinical condition, comfort, pain, treatment objectives and the patient's preferences. These arrangements are reviewed when the patient's clinical condition, mobility or skin status changes.

The Trust uses automated turning and turn-assist equipment in selected cases following individual clinical assessment. It is estimated that approximately 5–10 systems are in use at any one time. We do not hold this information centrally, as individual wards and departments order these items based on patient need.

The Trust has approximately 1,956 hospital beds. Mattress provision varies according to assessed patient need.

5. The number of pressure ulcers that developed in the Trust's care in each financial year, by category (2, 3, 4, unstageable, suspected deep tissue injury, and medical device related).

Pressure Ulcer Summary by Financial Year

Figures in brackets are acquired in hospital (BHSCT).

Financial Year 2022-23

Category	Avoidable	Unavoidable	Total
Cat 2	167 (151)	292 (166)	459 (317)
Device related – Cat 2	33 (30)	25 (13)	58 (43)
Cat 3	29 (28)	99 (60)	128 (88)
Device related – Cat 3	6 (5)	5 (2)	11 (7)
Cat 4	4 (4)	9 (3)	13 (7)
Device related – Cat 4	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Unstageable	41 (36)	77 (42)	118 (78)
Device related – Unstageable	2 (1)	5 (3)	7 (4)
Suspected DTI	14 (12)	64 (31)	78 (43)
Device related – Suspected DTI	3 (3)	3 (0)	6 (3)
Total	**255 (231)**	**541 (302)**	**796 (533)**
Device related subtotal	**46 (41)**	**39 (19)**	**85 (60)**

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Financial Year 2023-24			
Category	**Avoidable**	**Unavoidable**	**Total**
Cat 2	202 (185)	334 (211)	536 (396)
Device related – Cat 2	28 (24)	51 (37)	79 (61)
Cat 3	43 (41)	124 (71)	167 (112)
Device related – Cat 3	3 (3)	11 (4)	14 (7)
Cat 4	7 (5)	9 (2)	16 (7)
Device related – Cat 4	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Unstageable	43 (39)	49 (30)	92 (69)
Device related – Unstageable	4 (3)	11 (7)	15 (10)
Suspected DTI	17 (14)	98 (60)	115 (74)
Device related – Suspected DTI	3 (3)	12 (9)	15 (12)
Total	**312 (284)**	**614 (374)**	**926 (658)**
Device related subtotal	**39 (34)**	**86 (58)**	**125 (92)**

Financial Year 2024-25			
Category	**Avoidable**	**Unavoidable**	**Total**
Cat 2	152 (138)	295 (202)	447 (340)
Device related – Cat 2	26 (20)	45 (40)	71 (60)
Cat 3	38 (37)	129 (85)	167 (122)
Device related – Cat 3	5 (5)	20 (10)	25 (15)
Cat 4	0 (0)	4 (1)	4 (1)
Device related – Cat 4	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Unstageable	32 (31)	44 (25)	76 (56)
Device related – Unstageable	3 (3)	6 (3)	9 (6)
Suspected DTI	22 (22)	43 (32)	65 (54)
Device related – Suspected DTI	3 (3)	0 (0)	3 (3)
Total	**244 (228)**	**515 (345)**	**759 (573)**
Device related subtotal	**37 (31)**	**71 (53)**	**108 (84)**

Financial Year 2025-26			
Category	**Avoidable**	**Unavoidable**	**Total**
Cat 2	135 (124)	400 (264)	535 (388)
Device related – Cat 2	22 (19)	43 (31)	65 (50)
Cat 3	47 (46)	139 (85)	186 (131)
Device related – Cat 3	3 (3)	18 (11)	21 (14)
Cat 4	2 (2)	3 (0)	5 (2)
Device related – Cat 4	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Unstageable	43 (40)	68 (31)	111 (71)
Device related – Unstageable	2 (2)	10 (3)	12 (5)
Suspected DTI	23 (19)	60 (34)	83 (53)
Device related – Suspected DTI	3 (3)	2 (0)	5 (3)
Total	**250 (231)**	**670 (414)**	**920 (645)**
Device related subtotal	**30 (27)**	**74 (45)**	**104 (72)**

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6. The number of patient safety incidents recorded in 2025/26 where pressure-relieving equipment was unavailable or delayed and, if the Trust records it, the median time from request to provision of a dynamic mattress.

Under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust can confirm it does not hold the information requested.

There is no specific coding for pressure relieving equipment within the incident reporting system, however the Trust is not aware of any patient safety incidents relating to unavailable or delayed pressure-relieving equipment. In accordance with the Total Bed Management Contract, the maximum time from request to provision of a dynamic mattress is four hours. Median times are not recorded by the Trust.

7. The group that evaluates new pressure area care equipment; its meeting dates from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027; and the submission process and evidence required from a supplier.

There is a contract adjudication group. This is managed by the Business Services Organisation (BSO) and I would suggest you redirect this part of your request to them via FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Note from Requester
Please provide the information for financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26