

24 May 2022

Whether an Emergency was declared due to SARS CoV-2

I write to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Was an "Emergency" declared in March 2020 due to the Sars Cov-2?

The Covid-19 pandemic was a worldwide Emergency. In Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive led the response to the pandemic, working with the three other regional devolved governments and the overarching government sitting at Westminster. For specifics regarding Northern Ireland's response to the pandemic, we would suggest you seek information from the Northern Ireland Executive. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland and the Public Health Agency provided the Northern Ireland Executive with professional medical and scientific advice as part of the response.

2. Was an "Emergency" declared prior to or the months following March 2020 through to April 2022?

Belfast Trust did not declare an Emergency Major Incident.

3. If an "Emergency" was declared, as requested in points 1 and 2, how was this done and was it documented?

Point 1 - see response to point 1.

Point 2 - Belfast Trust did not declare an Emergency Major Incident.

4. If an "Emergency" was declared, on exactly which date and at what time did this happen?

As per response to Point 3.

5. If an "Emergency" was declared at any time as stipulated above, under what authority was this declared?

As per response to Point 3

6. If an "Emergency" was declared at any time as stipulated above, under what legislation was this declared?

As per answer to Point 3

7. If an "Emergency" was never declared or the information is not held, under what authority is this office enabling "Emergency" powers?

As per answer to Point 3