

30 October 2025

Crisis Supports Provided During Delays to Admission

Please outline the treatment and mental health intervention models prescribed by your Trust to meet the clinical needs of patients in mental health crisis, from within your Trust area, who have met the criteria for detention for assessment under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, and who were awaiting the availability of an inpatient bed.

For each of the financial years listed, please state the number of times such supports or interventions have been made available to patients awaiting admission:

- 2019/20
- 2020/21
- 2021/22
- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25

For each of the financial years listed, please also state the number of times these services were made available specifically in respect of patients meeting the above criteria whose waiting time for a bed fell either wholly or partly outside office hours (i.e. Monday–Thursday, 5.00pm–9.00am, or during a Saturday or Sunday), and confirm that the intervention/service described was provided during these out-of-hours periods:

- 2019/20
- 2020/21
- 2021/22
- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25

30 October 2025

We have received multiple requests from you within the last 60 days:

35090 – Received 30/09/2025

35095 – Received 01/10/2025

35115 – Received 02/10/2025

35127 - Received 03/10/2025 (current request)

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information, provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Belfast Trust is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

We are therefore applying exemption 12(4) to all of the above requests for information about mental health beds and waiting times.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply.

The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and public authorities the limit is £450 or 18 hours of one or more staff.