

FOI 4143

Waiting List Data

Provide the following information for the most recent available period, and where possible, for each of the last four quarters.

1. Waiting Lists by Type of Arthritis

Q1A. Provide a breakdown of waiting lists from the past four quarters by specific type of arthritis (including, but not limited to, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and other inflammatory arthropathies).

Q1B. Provide the number of patients waiting for initial consultation and for treatment within the Northern Trust in the last four quarters.

Information not held. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust holds waiting lists by specialty, not by condition.

2. Procedural Type Data

Q2A. Provide a breakdown of waiting list numbers by procedure type related to orthopaedic and arthritis care (for example, Total Hip Replacement, Total Knee Replacement, hand/wrist surgery and spinal procedures).

N/A. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust does not provide orthopaedic surgery.

Q2B. Provide the average waiting times for each procedure type over the past four quarters.

N/A. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust does not provide orthopaedic surgery.

3. Removals from Orthopaedic Waiting Lists

Q3A. Provide the number of patients removed from orthopaedic waiting lists within the Northern Trust over the last four quarters.

N/A. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust does not provide orthopaedic surgery.

Q3B. Provide a breakdown of the reasons for removal, including (but not limited to): treatment completed elsewhere, patient choice, clinical decision, non-attendance, administrative removal, or other categories used.

N/A. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust does not provide orthopaedic surgery.

Q3C. Outline the Trust's policy of PIFU. (Patient Initiated Follow Up)

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust is in the early stages of implementing Patient Initiated Follow up with Standard Operating Procedures for each speciality with a PIFU pathway. A Trust policy will be developed in line with regional guidance.

4. Deaths While on Waiting Lists

In light of Professor Mark Taylor informing the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Health on 23.04.26 that roughly 6000 people had died on waiting lists in the last year.

4A. Outline the number of patients who died while on an orthopaedic waiting list within the last four quarters.

If possible, could this data be separated by type of orthopaedic wait as well as separated between outpatient and inpatient.

N/A. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust does not provide orthopaedic surgery.

5. Cross Border Reimbursement Scheme (Reimbursement Clarification)

1. Provide a description of the methodology used by the Trust to calculate reimbursement amounts for treatments accessed under the scheme.

See below.

2. Outline any guidance documents, internal policies, or standard operating procedures used in determining reimbursement levels.

See below.

3. Provide information on how Health and Social Care Northern Ireland equivalent costs are calculated for the purpose of reimbursement.

See below.

4. Provide details of any caps, limits, or thresholds applied to reimbursement amounts.

See below.

5. Detail any assessments, reviews, or analysis carried out since the introduction of the scheme regarding whether reimbursement levels reflect the actual cost of treatment in the Republic of Ireland.

See below.

6. Outline how HSC Northern Ireland calculates the cost of a procedure in the Republic of Ireland, and does this policy be regularly updated to reflect the changes in prices of services in the Republic of Ireland.

The Cross Border Reimbursement Scheme (including arrangements relating to treatment accessed in the Republic of Ireland) is not administered by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Responsibility for the design, policy framework, eligibility criteria, reimbursement methodology, and funding arrangements for this scheme rests with the Department of Health (DoH). Operational management and administration of applications and reimbursements are undertaken at a regional level within Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI) structures (currently the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG), formerly the Health and Social Care Board).

As such, the Trust does not hold the information requested in relation to the detailed operation of the scheme. You may wish to redirect your request to Department of Health (Northern Ireland) or Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG), who are responsible for the policy and administration of the scheme and are therefore more likely to hold the information you have requested.