

Freedom of Information Request Reference

1. Please could you state how many patients were discharged to care homes after a positive Covid-19 test from March 17th to April 15th 2020

7 patients with a known positive COVID result were discharged to a care home over this period of time from Causeway and Antrim Hospitals.

2. Please could you state how many patients were discharged to care homes without being tested for Covid-19 from March 17th to April 15th 2020

142 patients were discharged to a Care Home from Antrim and Causeway Hospitals who did not meet the criteria for testing as an in-patient as per guidelines over the period 17 March 2020 to 15 April 2020.

3. Please could you state how many patients were discharged to care homes with a negative test for Covid-19 from March 17th to April 15th 2020

59 patients whose discharge destination was a Care Home tested negative during their hospital admission over this period of time and where subsequently discharged to a care home from Antrim and Causeway Hospital sites.

4. Please state whether you have reviewed any of these discharges between March 17th to April 15th to check if they led to any further transmission of Covid-19. If so, please state the number that were recorded as leading to further transmission.

5. Please provide a copy of any reports in which the trust's discharge of patients to care homes during the March 17th to April 15th 2020 is analysed in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With regard to questions 4 & 5, on this occasion the Trust will be applying section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This refers to information which is intended to be published and where it is reasonable that the information should not be disclosed until the intended date of publication. The Trust is currently carrying out a review of care home outbreaks, but the report is incomplete. Should you still wish to receive this information in the future you will need to request this through the Freedom of Information request process.

In applying the section 22 exemptions the Trust must consider 'the public interest test' - i.e. if it is in the public interest to disclose the information and if not, why this decision has been reached. Where the balance is equal, the Trust will always disclose the information.

The Public Interest Test

Factors in favour of disclosing the information

- Transparency & openness in providing information where possible.

Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption

- The report is incomplete
- To release the report at this stage would not give a true and accurate reflection of the review or its findings.