

8 March 2018

Our ref: FOI/17562

Ms Siobhan Greer
Email: request-464894-c01122a4@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Siobhan

**Re: Mental health beds when none available in Belfast Trust and are NIAS
ever involved**

I refer to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received 15 February 2018.

**How many patients requiring admission to a mental health facility in 2017 had
to be placed out of the Belfast Trust in mental health beds in different Trust
areas?**

In the year 2017, there were 168 admissions to other Trusts.

Which hospitals did these patients go to?

Where patients were admitted out of trust they were admitted to all of the other
hospital in N.Ireland with the majority being admitted to Lagan Valley and Bluestone
units.

**What hospitals does Belfast Trust have acute mental health beds in, how many
per hospital and how many in total.**

Belfast Trust has 85 acute beds in total with 32 based at Knockbracken Healthcare
Park and 53 based at Mater Hospital.

**How many were then brought back to Belfast Trust beds when beds became
free?**

134 of the patients admitted out of Trust were transferred back to Belfast Trust
inpatient wards, or provided with Acute Care in the community by Belfast Home
Treatment Service.

**I am sure it is necessary for patients to have good levels of family support on
admission and for professionals to develop good relationships with family
members in order to gain vital information. Does Belfast Trust facilitate
patients visiting family members who may be placed in hospital in for example
Omagh as Belfast have no beds?**

The Trust reimburses travelling expenses at public transport rates for families who are in receipt of benefits.

Is the already very stretched ambulance service ever involved in returning these patients to the Belfast beds when they become free?

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service are not routinely involved in transferring patients unless there is a clinical requirement.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information (FOI) request has been handled you may wish to complain. You should contact Mrs Edel O'Sullivan, Media and Public Liaison Manager, Nore Villa, Knockbracken Health Care Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast BT8 8BH or alternatively e-mail:

edel.osullivan@belfasttrust.hscni.net within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided usually within 20 working days of receipt.

Should you still be dissatisfied with the outcome, you can proceed to the second review stage by contacting the Information Commissioner, The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF who will undertake an independent review. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's review process to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Public Liaison Services