

Our ref: MMcC/jmck/FOI - 482

19th April 2021

By Email: (request-745120-87e98117@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr McCann

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Your request for information regarding PCR tests has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you should write to Dr Catherine Weaver, Head of Information Governance, the FOI lead for the Trust. You have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF. 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 procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

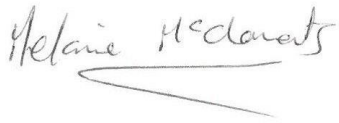
If you have any queries or concerns then please contact Information Governance at the following address:

Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Ferndale
Bannvale Site
10 Moyallen Road
Gilford
BT63 5JX

Tel: 028 37 561458

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie McClements". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

MELANIE MCCLEMENTS
DIRECTOR OF ACUTE SERVICES

Enc: Response FOI 482

SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESPONSE 482

1. When using the PCR test how from the total of PCR tests done up until now have resulted in positive cases and have you or any outsourcer tried to culture the positives in a lab?

We do not know how many positive cases there have been and we have not cultured the positives. We do not know if the Belfast Trust has tried to culture positive samples.

2. Is it true that a positive PCR test does not mean that you have covid-19 and that it can't determine if someone is infectious or not?

False positives can occur and you cannot be definitive about infectivity

3. When did your trust start using the lateral flow test and at what point did the trust start using it more than the PCR test?

The Trust has not been using Lateral Flow Antigen tests on patients

4. When using the lateral flow test how from the total of lateral flow tests done up until now have resulted in positive cases and have you or any outsourcer tried to culture the positives in a lab?

As above, the Trust has not been using Lateral Flow Antigen tests for diagnosis

5. In the 1 week period from the 28th December 2020 up until the 4th January what test was used in your trust?

A number of different platforms are used. During the week specified, all of the tests used were either PCR or isothermal amplification tests.