

FOI 3382

7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

---

**How many patients are currently on outpatient waiting lists in the Southern Health and Social Care trust?**

**Response:**

Please see attachment 1 for response.

Number of Consultant-Led Outpatients waiting on a first appointment (as at Mar 2021, Mar 2022, Mar 2023, Mar 2024 and Mar 2025) & the longest waiter in days from the last 5 year snapshot positions.

NOTE: Current number of Outpatient waiters as at QE Jun 25 or QE Sept 25 has not been fully validated or submitted to hospital information branch and so we are unable to provide.

**What is the longest waiting time recorded in the last five years?**

**Response:**

Please see attachment 1 for response.

**How many patients have died while on a waiting list in the last five years?**

**Response:**

Please see attachment 2 response.

No assumption can be made that being on a waiting list in any way contributed to cause of death and there are many different causes of death.

No one should be waiting excessive periods of time for health service treatment, particularly those in the final chapters of their lives. Our hospital waiting lists have been building up over many years, and a sustained period of investment and reform is required to improve the situation. The Trust is working with The Department of Health and other regional Trust colleagues on a range of measures to reduce waiting lists including the Reset Plan.” -

Note- Please advise caution when using the figures as in some cases the same patient may have been on more than one list and may be counted twice (or more). Therefore, the number of “removals” do not equate to number of patient deaths.

**How many complaints were lodged regarding waiting times or cancelled procedures in the last five years?**

**Response:**

There were 104 formal complaints and 175 informal complaints in respect of waiting times in last five years.

**How many patients have been referred to services outside the Southern Trust in the last five years due to excessive waiting times?**

**Response:**

This information is not recorded centrally. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

**How many operations/appointments were cancelled by the patient in the last 5 years due to excessive waiting times?**

**Response:**

Information not held.

**How many patients have had their procedure cancelled more than once in the last five years?**

**Response:**

This information is not recorded centrally. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Email: [Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net)