

FOI 3398

10th November 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am seeking anonymised statistical data from HSC Trusts for policy analysis to improve the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme.

Could you please provide me with the following information from your H&SC Trust:

Number of individuals for each age (or for each age groups of 0-5, 6-15, 16-59 and 60+ or, if this isn't possible, age groups as you have it recorded) registered as being/having:

- severely sight-impaired (blind)
- sight-impaired (partially sighted)
- learning disability
- service user with profound hearing loss
- service user with severe hearing loss
- service user with permanent or long-term communication impairment (non-verbal)

Response:

Age Bands	DEAF WITH SPEECH	DEAF WITHOUT SPEECH	HARD OF HEARING	LEARNING DISABILITY	SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITY	SEVERELY SIGHT IMPAIRED	SIGHT IMPAIRED
(1)0-5	<5			9		5	8
(2)6-15	13	15	75	212	7	42	59
(3)16-59	98	65	523	1537	283	232	173
(4)60+	41	51	1711	348	43	450	202

N.B.

This is the most accurate data available, taken from PARIS electronic patient record system and was correct as at 7th May 2025.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the exact figures from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the

disclosure of the information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

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