

FOI 3447

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**I am seeking information regarding osteoporosis funding and services in your Trust. Please provide the following information for your Trust for the most recent financial year:**

**1. Funding:**

**o Direct funding allocated specifically for osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.**

**o Indirect funding that supports osteoporosis-related care within other programmes (please specify the programmes).**

**2. Services:**

**o List of specialised osteoporosis services provided.**

**o Locations where these services are delivered.**

**o Number of annual service users of these services.**

**Response:**

The Southern Trust does not have a commissioned osteoporosis service.

We have a fracture liaison service which aims to identify new fragility fractures in those aged >50 – This consists of x2 Nurses working in Adult Community Services Directorate.

The management of bone health post hip fracture in those >50 is part of standard care and is managed by the orthogeriatric team as part of their normal work. It would not be possible to quantify which proportion of their time is spent managing osteoporosis.

The only dedicated osteoporosis clinic is a fortnightly consultant lead fracture liaison clinic that supports the fracture liaison service. Osteoporosis may be managed in several specialties including but not limited to rheumatology, endocrinology and elderly care. It would not be possible to calculate what proportion of time is spent on managing osteoporosis.

The Trust does administer specialist medications including IV Zoledronic acid, denosumab and teriparatide. Some of these will be as an outpatient and others will be at day clinical centre Craigavon Area Hospital and through the elderly care day hospital in Lurgan Hospital.

Osteoporosis is also managed as part of other chronic diseases, but it would not be possible to quantify as this will be spread out amongst many services including rheumatology, endocrinology, elderly care.

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of individual patient records. 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. To obtain this information from a number of individual patient records 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.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

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