

FOI 3677

23rd March 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Given the sensitivities surrounding dietary requirements for patients of different faiths or beliefs, it would be helpful to understand whether the Trust has any processes in place to identify or monitor the certification status of meat and other relevant products supplied to the hospital. In particular, could you clarify:

1. Whether the Trust requests information from suppliers regarding Halal certification when sourcing meat or poultry products.

Response:

The packaging and labelling requirements for all food contract products currently supplied to Heath and Social Care must comply with all applicable legislation, regulations, guidelines and standards and any amendments thereto relevant to Northern Ireland.

The Trust does not request information from suppliers, as suppliers are not required by legislation to label the products as Halal or non-Halal

2. Whether there are any internal checks or procurement standards relating to religious slaughter or certification.

Response:

The Trust does not hold this information and therefore cannot respond. BSO Procurement and Logistics Service will be able to provide a response to this question.

Business Services Organisation (BSO) Headquarters
Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ

3. Whether patients who specifically wish to avoid Halal-certified food have any mechanism to make this request.

Response:

Patients who wish to avoid Halal-certified food can express to nursing staff on the ward or in the Department, and advice will be given on options to order from our menus.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net

END