

FOI 3753

3rd June 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I wish to request general information and guidance regarding the availability of Consultants who are able to assess, manage, and provide ongoing care for patients with PoTS within Northern Ireland. Specifically, I would appreciate any information on:

Whether there are designated Consultants within SHSCT or across Northern Ireland with expertise in PoTS

Response:

Within the SHSCT there is no specialist service for POTS within any specialty. There is also no commissioned specialty service for POTS within the province or commissioned quaternary referral service to mainland UK for POTS

The relevant specialities responsible for managing PoTS patients (e.g. Cardiology, Neurology, or Autonomic Services)

Response:

Within the SHSCT there is no specialist service for POTS within any specialty

Current referral pathways for patients requiring specialist PoTS care

Response:

If a patient is referred with symptoms of a cardiac nature e.g. palpitations, dizzy on standing they would be seen in a routine manner as a new patient in cardiology – to exclude primary underlying cardiac pathology. If these investigations excluded cardiac pathology and then led to a POTS diagnosis (which can be made by a GP by simple lying and standing heart rate assessment) the patient would be discharged to GP and advised to follow the guidelines on POTS UK site particularly in relation to postural retraining.

Any regional or out-of-area service arrangements for PoTS management

Response:

If a patient is referred with POTS – these are rejected due to 1. No specialty POTS service 2. No guidelines for management or follow up 3. The above-mentioned ICD 10 classification. GP may then choose to refer to neurology. Whether they accept or not is dependent on their service capability.

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