

FOI 3848

3rd July 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I would be grateful if you could send the most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, whether these are from the Health and Social Care Trust, Integrated Care Board (ICB), or the region. I am particularly interested in planning documents that cover lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood Biomarker testing.

Response:

All Lumbar punctures are completed by the Belfast HSC Trust. You may wish to redirect your query to the Belfast HSC Trust and they may be able to assist you:

publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

To what extent are there plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease?

Response:

	Yes / No
Implementation of plans has started	NO
A plan exists and implementation has not started	YES
A plan is being developed	NO
There is no plan	NO
Other – please state	NO

Are the plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease related to

Response:

	Yes / No
Cognitive assessment services	YES

Biomarker services	YES
None / neither	NO

Which of the following services does the Health and Social Care Trust have in place in preparation for increased service delivery for Alzheimer's Disease?

Response:

	Related to administration of lumbar punctures Yes / No	Related to Blood Biomarker testing Yes / No
Budget	NO	NO
People	NO	NO
Training	NO	NO
Clinic space / capacity	NO	NO
Governance arrangements	NO	NO

How many lumbar puncture procedures to test for Alzheimer's Disease were performed in the last three-month period for which data are available?

Response:

	Number of procedures
Number of lumbar punctures	<5 *these were completed by BHSCT

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality, 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. 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 redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted 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.

Please provide the number of **BBM tests for Alzheimer's Disease** conducted over the last three-months, regardless of whether they were carried out within your organisation or sent to an external pathology laboratory.

Response:

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of Blood Biomarker tests	0	0	0

Which of the following biomarker tests were used to detect **Alzheimer's Disease**?

Response:

	Yes / No
pTau181 immunoassay tests	NO
pTau217 immunoassay tests	YES

Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations, to which the Trust refers samples for **pTau181** and **pTau217** immunoassay testing for **Alzheimer's Disease**?

Response:

Full name of Trust or organisation(s)
None. Not accessible through NHS, all done privately

How many pTau181 immunoassay tests were conducted to test for Alzheimer's Disease in the last three-months?

Response:

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of pTau181 tests	0	0	0

Is pTau181 testing for Alzheimer's Disease linked to, or conducted in conjunction with, clinical trials?

Response:

	Yes / No
pTau181 Testing associated with clinical trial activity	NO

How many pTau181 immunoassay tests were conducted for Alzheimer's Disease as part of a clinical trial?

Response:

Number of pTau181 tests	0
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How many pTau217 immunoassay tests were conducted to test for Alzheimer's Disease in the last three-months?

Response:

	Number of tests TOTAL	Number of tests NHS patients	Number of tests Private Sector
Number of pTau217 tests	0	0	0

Is pTau217 testing for Alzheimer's Disease linked to, or conducted in conjunction with, clinical trials?

Response:

	Yes / No
pTau217 Testing associated with clinical trial activity	YES *not started as yet

How many pTau217 immunoassay tests were conducted for Alzheimer's Disease as part of a clinical trial?

Response:

Number of pTau217 tests	0
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Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net