



FOI 1628

20/07/23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Can I please have any communications between WHSCT and yourselves regarding the acceptance of patients, no diverted due to the removal of emergency surgery from Southwest acute Hospital.

Patients who attend SWAH ED who after assessment are deemed to require emergency general surgical input will be managed as per protocols put in place by the Western Health & Social Care Trust (WHSCT)

The SHSCT Divisional Medical Director for ED and the SHSCT Head of Service for General Surgery attended meetings with the WHSCT Senior & Clinical Management in November and December 2022 in a critical friend role. It was acknowledged that since the SHSCT had gone through an identical situation with emergency general surgery earlier in 2022 that it would be beneficial to share learning.

Can you evidence your acceptance to receive patients to Craigavon?

Patients who attend Craigavon ED will be assessed and treated regardless of their Trust area of residence.

Can you state in which situation you accept patients?

Patients who attend Craigavon ED will be assessed and treated regardless of their Trust area of residence.

Can you tell me where these patients are brought to for admission and surgery?

Patients assessed in CAH ED who require admission are admitted to inpatient CAH surgical beds on level 3 and 4

Can you include patients who come:

By private ambulance,

There is no central record available on the usage of private ambulances to transfer patients – in order to potentially identify if a patient was transferred by private ambulance a review of individual patient records from ED and the wards would be required and there is no certainty that this information would be contained within the patient's records.



Southern Health and Social Care Trust

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. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

From wards in Southwest acute hospital,

Information not held.

From the emergency department in SWAH and those who arrive through NIAS bypass or indeed through the major trauma, triage, toolkit discretion.

Information not held.

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