

FOI - 2184

7th February 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your endoscopy services at the hospitals.

1) How many patients do you have on the endoscopy waiting list?

SHSCT, as of 06 February 2024, has a total of 5416 patients on the endoscopy waiting list. These are urgent, routine and planned repeat procedures respectively.

2) What is the name of the endoscopy lead who oversees the endoscopy decisions?

Currently vacant and will be backfilled as soon as possible.

3) How many scopes are you processing per week?

SHSCT processes approx. 350 – 370 scopes in total across the 3 sites.

4) Are you planning any refurbishments, decants or expansions to the endoscopy department to expand or improve the services this year?

SHSCT are hoping to transfer decontamination services to centralise within CSSD on one site, to streamline decontamination, however, is dependent on funding.

5) What are the typical issues you are experiencing within endoscopy services?

Issues the service currently consider to be a challenge are aging equipment and a difficult financial outlook in relation to capital funding to address same, high volumes of patients and long-standing waiting times to procedure.

6) Have you ever used or considered using a mobile endoscopy unit and if so which one?

The service has not considered using a mobile endoscopy unit as financial outlook to support such an initiative would be challenging. If the financial picture was to change, this may be something the service would consider

7) If you were to look at a mobile endoscopy unit, would you require staffing?

If the service were in a position to consider usage of a mobile endoscopy unit, yes, we would potentially require staffing if our current existing endoscopy services were to run simultaneously.

8) Do you currently use insourcing for your endoscopy lists and if so who do you use?

No, SHSCT does not currently use insourcing for our endoscopy lists.

9) Do you have a contingency plan if you experience a disaster situation or the endoscopy unit is unusable?

Yes, the endoscopy service has business continuity plans in place if we were to experience a disaster situation or the endoscopy unit was to be unusable. For the majority of eventualities outlined, in the event the procedure room was to become unavailable/inaccessible, then patient lists would have to be cancelled for that procedure room.

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