

25th March 2024**BY EMAIL**
[REDACTED]**Our Ref: FOI 2164**

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 20th March 2024 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested in relation to the Northern Ireland Infected Blood Payment Scheme

Please find a response as follows:

The Northern Ireland Infected Blood Payment Scheme was established in November 2017 and the total number of deaths for the period November 2017 – March 2024 is 14. Please refer to the table below which confirms the breakdown of deaths by category.

Category	Number of deaths
Hepatitis C (stage 1)	4
Special Category Mechanism	1
Hepatitis C (stage 2)	7
Co infected with HIV and Hepatitis C (stage 1)	1
Non Infected Widow/widower civil partner	1
Total	14



The total number of beneficiaries currently active within the Northern Ireland Infected Blood Payment Scheme is 106. Please refer to the table below which confirms the breakdown of scheme beneficiaries by category.

Category	Number of beneficiaries
Hepatitis C (stage 1)	23
Special Category Mechanism	35
Hepatitis C (stage 2)	18
HIV	2
Co infected HIV and SCM	1
Co infected HIV and Hepatitis C (stage 2)	1
Non Infected Widow/widowed civil partner	26
Total	106

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

Karen Bailey

Karen Bailey
Chief Executive