

Date: Monday, 17th April 2023
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 5671

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5671

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 03rd April 2023.

Your request was as follows:

Regarding oncology treatment for inpatients in your Trust's hospital -

1. If a patient residing in one of the trust's hospitals was diagnosed or had previously been diagnosed with cancer, would they be able to receive treatment when they were an inpatient.

1. As a Trust we provide surgical treatment only. We do not provide other treatments for cancers such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. This would be undertaken by either the patient's local hospital (on a specialist wards) or specialist cancer centre such as Clatterbridge. If a patient required, this specialist service we would make every effort to facilitate an outpatient visit to the specialist centre. If the patient was clinically unwell meaning they were unable to travel for treatment, then this would be discussed with the patient's consultant and with the consultant oncologist. A plan would then be made and treatment either postponed until they were well enough to travel, or an alternative plan made.

2. If not, does the Trust have a policy of patients receiving treatment for cancer only when they are an outpatient - and does this depend on which kind of treatment they receive?

2. The only cancer treatment the Trust offers is surgery. Some patients will attend the trust who take oral medications as part of their cancer treatment that nursing staff can administer. Other cancer treatments are performed by specialists usually in specialist centres such as Clatterbridge that have undertaken specialist training to administer it or have the specialist equipment to undertake the procedures.

3. In addition, could you please confirm the average time it takes from the decision that a patient is medically fit to be discharged until they are discharged.

3. Once a patient is deemed medically fit for discharge this means that the medics are not going to offer other treatments/ surgery. It does not mean that the patient is ready for discharge as there are other factors to ensure that they are safe to go home. The patients may require rehabilitation, physiotherapy input, or occupational therapy input to make them safe for discharge. Some patients may require equipment at home to enable a safe discharge too. Timescales from being medically fit to going home will vary because of these assessments and waits for equipment. Every patient is different, and this timeframe will depend on how the patient is and what discharge requirements they have.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information



All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5671 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information