

Date: Friday, 24th March 2023
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5643

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5643

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 20th March 2023.

Your request was as follows:

1. How many emergency decompression surgeries were undertaken at the Walton Centre in August 2017?

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) can confirm 6 emergency decompression surgeries were undertaken in August 2017

2. How many of these surgeries were undertaken overnight, between the hours of 11 pm to 8:00am?

The WCFT can confirm 1 of those surgeries were undertaken overnight, between the hours of 11 pm to 8:00am (based on incision to closure time)

3. How many emergency decompression surgeries for cauda equina syndrome (CES) were undertaken at the Walton Centre in August 2017?

The WCFT can confirm 1 emergency decompression surgery for cauda equina syndrome was undertaken in August 2017

4. How many of these surgeries were undertaken overnight, between the hours of 11 pm to 8:00am?

The WCFT can confirm 1 of those surgeries were undertaken overnight between the hours of 11 pm to 8:00am (based on incision to closure time)

5. What was the average urgent ambulance transfer time from Southport and Formby District hospital to the Walton Centre in August 2017 between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am. (In addition to the average time, can you please state the shortest and the longest duration during this period of time)

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold the information you have requested. Therefore we cannot provide this information.

Under the FOIA, we are not required to create this information in order to answer your request. I should explain that the FOIA is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities. The FOIA does not require public authorities to generate information, or to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

6. What was the average length of time from receiving an urgent neurosurgical referral from A&E Department at Southport and Formby District hospital to the patient arriving to the Walton Centre in August 2017, where the referral was instigated between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am. (In addition to the average time, can you please state the shortest and the longest duration during this period of time)

The WCFT can confirm average length of time was 10 hours.

7. How many surgeons were capable to undertake urgent CES decompression surgery and were available at the Walton Centre on the night of 11.8.2017, between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am?

The WCFT can confirm 1 consultant capable of urgent CES decompression surgery was available at the Walton Centre on the night of 11.8.2017, between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am

8. What was average waiting time for urgent lumbar MRI scan on 11.8.17 between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am?

The WCFT can confirm no lumbar MRI scans were carried out between these hours.

9. How many surgeons were capable to undertake urgent CES decompression surgery and were available at the Walton Centre on the night of 14.8.2017, between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am?

The WCFT can confirm 1 consultant capable to undertake urgent CES decompression surgery was available at the Walton Centre on the night of 14.8.2017, between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am?

10. Total of spinal and cranial emergencies requiring urgent surgery on the night of 11.8.2017, between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am.

The WCFT can confirm 0 such cases performed during those hours, no data captured on number requiring surgery.

11. Total of spinal and cranial emergencies requiring urgent surgery on the night of 14.8.2017, between the hours of 8 pm to 8 am.

The WCFT can confirm 1 such case performed during those hours, no data captured on number requiring surgery.

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 5643 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