

Date: Monday, 13th May 2024
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 6274

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6274

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 12th April 2024.

Your request was as follows:

1a. Does your organisation follow the guidance set out in Section 5 (Recording RTT waiting times: Planned patients) of NHS England's 'Recording and reporting referral to treatment (RTT) waiting times for consultant led elective care'?

I can confirm the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust partially follows the guidance set out in Section 5 (Recording RTT waiting times: Planned patients) of NHS England's 'Recording and reporting referral to treatment (RTT) waiting times for consultant led elective care'.

1b. If so, do you follow the guidance with respect to the following types of planned patient (as defined in the guidance):

- Follow-up outpatients
- Cancer surveillance patients
- Active monitoring patients
- Follow-up outpatients - The WCFT do not start an RTT active pathway but they remain visible on a Follow Up PTL
- Cancer surveillance patients - Yes, for inpatient procedures and diagnostics
- Active monitoring patients- Yes, for inpatient procedures and diagnostics

1c. If so, at what point does your organisation place patients waiting for planned care (as defined in the guidance) on an active RTT waiting list? (e.g. the RTT clock starts as soon as a patient's care becomes 'overdue', or after a defined time period or tolerance following a patient's care becoming 'overdue'?)

This is agreed in conjunction with the clinical teams.

1d. If such patients are placed on an active RTT waiting list, do you report them on;

i) the Referral to Treatment statistics to NHS England which are published monthly as National Statistics, and/or ii) the Waiting List Minimum Data Set (WLMDS)?

Yes.

2a. How many patients on your active RTT waiting list have been placed on this waiting list having been transferred from a planned care list (as defined in the guidance)? Please provide the most recent available figures and state the date of those figures.

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 as the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. 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.

2b. How long have these patients been on an active RTT waiting list?

- i. 0-4 weeks (0-28 days)
- ii. >4 -12 weeks (29-84 days)
- iii. >12-18 weeks (85 days-126 days)
- iv. >18-36 weeks (127 days-252 days)
- v. >36-52 weeks (253 days-364 days)
- vi. >52-104 weeks (365 days - 728 days)
- vii. >104 weeks (729 days or more)
- viii. No date recorded.

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 as the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. Therefore, we cannot provide this information.

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2c. How many of these patients are on an active RTT waiting list for the following RTT treatment functions?

- i) General Surgery Service
- ii) Urology Service
- iii) Trauma and Orthopaedic Service
- iv) Ear Nose and Throat Service
- v) Ophthalmology Service
- vi) Oral Surgery Service
- vii) Neurosurgical Service
- viii) Plastic Surgery Service
- ix) Cardiothoracic Surgery Service

- x) General Internal Medicine Service
- xi) Gastroenterology Service
- xii) Cardiology Service
- xiii) Dermatology Service
- xiv) Respiratory Medicine Service
- xv) Neurology Service
- xvi) Rheumatology Service
- xvii) Elderly Medicine Service
- xviii) Gynaecology Service
- xix) Other - Medical Services
- xx) Other - Mental Health Services
- xxi) Other - Paediatric Services
- xxii) Other - Surgical Services
- xxiii) Other - Other Services
- xxiv) Unknown

vii) [Neurosurgery - 3907](#)

xv) [Neurology - 13,553](#)

3. How many planned patients (as defined in the guidance), in each of the following categories, do not have a date that allows their overdue date to be calculated (e.g. a due-by / latest clinically appropriate date):

- Follow-up outpatients
- Cancer surveillance patients
- Active monitoring patients

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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 6274 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