

Date: Monday, 25th March 2024
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 6228

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6228

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 13th March 2024.

Your request was as follows:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the community health services for speech and language.

Please can you provide the following in the format of an Excel spreadsheet:

1. The total number of patients currently on the waiting list to receive speech and language therapy services.

[The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust is a Specialist Neuroscience Tertiary Care Centre; we do not offer services for community SLT. Therefore, we cannot provide this information. However, Section 16 of the FOIA places a duty on us to provide help and assistance where possible and I am able to advise you that the waiting times information can be obtained from community SLT services including MerseyCare and Bridgewater.](#)

2. A breakdown of the waiting list by age groups (0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-18 years, 18+ years) for the latest calendar year 2023.

[As above.](#)

3. A breakdown of the number of patients by age group waiting from referral to first appointment:

- 0-1 weeks (0-7 days)
- 1-2 weeks (8-14 days)
- 2-4 weeks (15-28 days)
- 4-12 weeks (29-84 days)
- 12-18 weeks (85-126 days)
- 18-52 weeks (127-364 days)
- Over 52 weeks (over 365 days)

[As above.](#)

4. Historical data on the waiting list - the total number of patients waiting for speech and language services, a breakdown by age group and weeks waiting for 2019, 2020 and 2021 or the latest year for when records began.

As above.

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 6228 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