

Date: Monday, 08th April 2024
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 6250

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6250

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 28th March 2024.

Your request was as follows:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please could you provide answers to the questions below by email:

1. Do you have a specialist service for long Covid patients within your trust? Please name the clinic/service
2. How many patients in your local NHS area have been referred to the clinic/service to date? Please break down by year to date ie 12 months to this date in 2024 and then each of the previous 12 months back to the start of the service
3. Is the service physician-led?
4. Please provide figures for how many patients referred to the clinic/service received the following type of treatment in-house:
 1. physical rehabilitation - please give details
 2. Graded exercise therapy
 3. CBT or other psychological intervention - please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them
 4. Advice on pacing
 5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 6. drug treatment
 7. other, please specify
8. Does the service have the ability to prescribe medications to long Covid patients for symptoms where appropriate?
9. If so, please list the 3 most common drugs prescribed for long Covid patients by the clinic, with numbers of prescriptions if possible
10. Does the service have the ability to order diagnostic tests and scans?
11. If so please list the 3 most commonly ordered tests/scans/diagnostic questionnaires for long Covid patients by the clinic
12. If not provided in-house, which of the following types of services does the clinic/service refer patients onto or recommend?

1. physical rehabilitation - please give details
2. Graded exercise therapy
3. CBT or other psychological intervention - please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them
4. Advice on pacing
5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
6. drug treatment
7. other, please specify
13. How many staff do you have working in the service FTE (full time equivalent) broken down by job title of:
 - a) doctor
 - b) nurse
 - c) physiotherapist
 - d) occupational therapist
 - e) clinical psychologist/ CBT practitioner / psychotherapist/counsellor
 - f) other, please specify
14. For any doctors employed, please specify their specialism eg GP, cardiologist, neurologist, psychiatrist
15. Is the clinic expected to continue running after 2025?

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 Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust do not have a specialist service for long Covid patients. 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.

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 6250 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