

Title

Knee Replacement Waiting List

Reference Number: RDF1980-23

Date of Response: 09/11/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

1. Please can you let me know how many patients you had on your waiting list for at least one knee replacement on 1st October 2023.

Answer: Total Trust - 540 patients.

2. Please could you also let me know how many of these patients had been waiting more than a year for a knee replacement?

Answer: Total Trust – 134 patients.

3. Please could you let me know many NHS knee replacement patients have been transferred to a private medical hospital to have their procedure carried out in the following years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 thus far.

The Trust can neither confirm nor deny that the information requested is held and issues a refusal notice for this request under Section 17 of the Act. The following exemptions also apply:

Section 12 - Cost of Compliance

When a patient is transferred to another hospital, a RTT status is given and an Inter-Provider form would be completed. However, the information is not recorded in a field on the Trust Electronic EPR system (Epic) to recall where the patient has gone and whether it is a private hospital. Trust staff would have to do undertake a manual search of each patient record to try to identify if this information was held.

The Trust applies Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12(1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting that information.