

## Patient Initiated Digital Mutual Aid System (PIDMAS)

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Reference Number: RDF2122-23

Date of Response: 15/12/23

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

*Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,*

*I would like to request the following information to be released, if held, with regards to the Patient Initiated Digital Mutual Aid System (PIDMAS).*

- 1. The number of patients who had been on a waiting list for treatment with the trust for 40 weeks or more, as of 31 October 2023.*

Answer: For information 'as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023' the Trust can confirm that it holds information that you have requested. This information is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is intended to be published in the near future (October 2023 data will be released 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023). The information you requested will be accessible via the following link:

- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2023-24/>

- 2. The number of patients contacted by the trust to tell them of their eligibility to choose a different provider or health trust through PIDMAS, as of 1 December 2023.*

Answer: 5,499.

- 3. The number of patients who have been referred to another provider or health trust, through PIDMAS, as of 1 December 2023.*

Answer: ≤5.

In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases ≤5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients/staff and should not be published.