

Title: Cancer Pathways / Dermatology

Reference Number: RDF1019-22

Date of Response: 02/02/23

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

Dear NHS Trust,

I've just been reading the latest HSJ circulation and understand that your CEO has been asked, in a letter dated 25th October from Sir Jim Mackey and Dame Cally Palmer, to self-certify by 11th November your Board has received a report on the current structure and performance of lower GI, skin and prostate cancer pathways (including the proportion of colonoscopies carried out on patients who are FIT [Faecal Immunochemical Test] negative or without a FIT; the proportion of urgent skin referrals for whom a face to face appointment is avoided by use of dermoscopic quality images; and a capacity/demand analysis for MRI and biopsy requirements on the prostate pathway), and agreed actions required to implement the changes outlined in their letter.

Can I please request, using the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for the following information to be provided to me in electronic format:

- 1. A copy of the report already sent or in the process of being sent to the trust's Board on the current structure and performance of lower GI, skin and prostate cancer pathways (including the proportion of colonoscopies carried out on patients who are FIT [Faecal Immunochemical Test] negative or without a FIT; the proportion of urgent skin referrals for whom a face to face appointment is avoided by use of dermoscopic quality images; and a capacity/demand analysis for MRI and biopsy requirements on the prostate pathway).*

Answer: The information you have requested can be accessed via the following links, to assist you we have included the page numbers directing you to the relevant section.

This content in the IPR relates to the Trust's Board Self-Assessment response referenced in Section d) page 54

<https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/media/dyidg2no/meeting-book-board-of-directors-public-meeting-25-january-2023-for-public-website.pdf>

- September 2022 page 57 – 60
<https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/media/llvoltgx/meeting-book-board-of-directors-public-meeting-28-september-2022-final-for-public-website.pdf>
- October 2022 page 94 – 97
<https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/media/idpoechn/meeting-book-board-of-directors-public-meeting-26-october-2022-updated-for-public-website.pdf>

- November 2022 page 57 – 62
<https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/media/znboeaun/meeting-book-board-of-directors-public-meeting-30-november-2022-for-public-website.pdf>

- 2. *Details of the agreed actions required to implement the changes outlined in the letter sent to your trust by NHSE's national directors for elective recovery and cancer dated 25th October 2020.*
 Answer: The information you have requested can be accessed via the following link, to assist you we have included the page numbers directing you to the relevant section.

 pages 51 – 59
<https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/media/dyidg2no/meeting-book-board-of-directors-public-meeting-25-january-2023-for-public-website.pdf>

- 3. *What dermatology service contracts do the trust have in place with 3rd party providers;*
 - a. *what are their details*
 Answer: Eastern Services does not have contracts with Third party providers for dermatology services. Northern Services: Provision of clinical service solution.

 - b. *contract start/end dates*
 Answer: Eastern Services does not have contracts with Third party providers for dermatology services. Northern Services: October 15th 2022 – 1st April 2023.

 - c. *annual contract value/s*
 Answer: Eastern Services: The Trust does not have contracts with Third party providers for dermatology services. Northern Services: This information is commercially sensitive and its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

In applying the exemption under Section 43(2) the Freedom of Information Act the Trust has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The Trust has considered all the relevant factors in the public interest test and concluded that the benefit to the public in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in releasing the information requested as a result of the prejudices and losses that would potentially affect the Trust and patients. As such this information is being withheld under Section 43 (2).

 - d. *breakdown of dermatology patient throughput over the last three years by adult/paediatric and condition type.*
 Answer: Eastern Services: The Trust does not have contracts with Third party providers for dermatology services. Northern Services: 136 suspected cancer patients have been seen since 15th October 2022, none were paediatric. There were no Third-party providers to 15/10/22.

- 4. *What is the current wait time for patients to have their first consultation with a Consultant Dermatologist?*
 Answer: Eastern Services: 25 weeks. Northern Services: 13 weeks.

5. *What is the current backlog of dermatology patients?*

Answer: Eastern Services: 2,478 patients. Northern Services: 1,577 patients.

6. *How many Consultant Dermatologist are employed by the trust and what is their overall total whole-time-equivalent (WTE) figure?*

Answer: Eastern Services: 14 Consultant Dermatologists, total WTE 10.52.
Northern Services: 2.2 WTE.