

Title: Treatment Waiting List

Reference Number: RDF1323-23

Date of Response: 08/03/23

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 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).

Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

I am writing to submit an FOI concerning waiting times for consultant-led treatment, for both inpatient and outpatients.

Firstly I would like to give some context to aid in the interpretation of my request. I am familiar with the NHS England Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times statistics that are published monthly, and am looking for more specific figures about patients who leave this waiting list. I know leaving the waiting list could be because of a range of scenarios - the patient has had the scan/procedure/appointment they were waiting for, they have refused treatment, they have failed to show up and therefore been removed from the waiting list etc.

My request:

I would the following data broken down by month for between December 2018 to January 2023:

- 1) How many patients left the waiting list for whatever reason. Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list.*

Answer: The Trust has considered your request, however to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources including legacy systems across both Trust services. To carry out this work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

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 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.

2) *Of these, how many left the waiting list because they were admitted as an emergency and treated for the condition their referral related to during their emergency stay, therefore ending the treatment waiting pathway? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list.*

Answer: Please see response to question 1.

Please note that the Welsh government has outlined how this may occur on page 8 of this guidance here:

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsenedd.wales%2Fmedia%2Fycspv5fr%2Fhospital-waiting-times.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Crduh.foi%40nhs.net%7Ce7615bc2717f45e5043808db14003043%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638125763257415729%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qVyEn%2F188XFmpeE7TUHyuSTa%2FL7jKvH7GtfY6aQ5E00%3D&reserved=0>

3) *And of these (patients in question 1), how many left the waiting list because they died? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they were on more than one waiting list when they died.*

Answer: Please see response to question 1.

A patient could be subject to multiple different referrals, so I would like data based on the referrals rather than individual people ie If a person dies while on three waiting lists for instance, I would like them to be counted as three referral waiting periods/RTT pathways ending due to death.