

Referral Waiting Times

Reference Number: F4559
Date of Response: 3rd May 2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, in **blue bold text** below:

Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust Response

- (1) At the end of January 2022, how many patients were waiting more than 156 weeks to start treatment (incomplete pathways) after being referred?

We can confirm that this data is held by the Trust, however, In accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide these figures as the number of patients waiting to start treatment after being referred is less than five. Releasing this data could risk the identification of these patients. This would breach Caldicott principles and all principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Section 40(2) of the FOIA states that information is exempt from disclosure if it constitutes the personal data of a third party and its disclosure under the FOIA would breach any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998

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authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

- (2) At the end of January 2022, how many patients were waiting more than 208 weeks to start treatment after being referred?

Zero patients were waiting more than 208 weeks to start treatment after being referred at the end of January 2022.

- (3) At end of January 2022, what was the longest period of time (in weeks) that a patient was waiting to start treatment after being referred?

The longest waiting time at the end of January 2022 for a patient to start treatment after being referred was 161 weeks.

- (4) By which department was the patient in question (3) waiting to be seen?

We can confirm that this data is held by the Trust, however, in accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to respond to this question as this relates to an individual patient. Releasing

this data could risk the identification of this patient. This would breach Caldicott principles and all principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

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