

Speech and Language Therapy Waiting Lists

Reference Number: RDF2157-23

Date of Response: 27/12/23

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 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).

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your NHS Trust. Please may you provide me with:

- 1. The total number of children on a waiting list for speech and language therapy as of 1st December 2023, and on the 1st December for each year, since 2010*

Answer: The Trust do not hold this information. The information is held by 'Children & Family Health Devon', a county wide service. Please contact them via their website www.childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk

- 2. The total number of adults on a waiting list for speech and language therapy as of 1st December 2023*

Answer: Royal Devon's Eastern Services - 241. Northern Services: 259 (as at 6th December 2023).

- a. and on the 1st December for each year, since 2010*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in an easily reportable format, under FOI regulation reporting organisations have no obligation to create information.

To provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources and systems including individual patient records. 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.

In addition, it is not expected and inappropriate for the Trust to review individual patient records to obtain/produce the information. In this instance the FOI question is exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patients' personal data).

3. The single longest number of days that an individual child spent on a waiting list for speech and language therapy, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

Answer: Please see the response to question 1.

3. *The single longest number of days that an individual adult spent on a waiting list for speech and language therapy, broken down by financial year, since 2010.*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in an easily reportable format.