

## Radiotherapy Waiting Times

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Reference Number: RDF1801-23

Date of Response: 03/10/23

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).

*I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the following:*

*Please provide the following information for each calendar year from 2018 to the present (2023):*

1. *What was the longest a patient at your healthcare facility waited (in weeks/days) for:*

a. *a first consultation with a radiation oncologist, following a referral for radiotherapy treatment;*

Answer: The Trust holds the information however, to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources. This activity is not a measured target with respect to criteria defined as part of national cancer waiting time standards. The Trust does not hold the information in a reportable format. The information is held on several systems, including legacy systems and individual patient records. 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 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.

b. *the initiation of radiotherapy treatment\*, following the initial consultation with a radiation oncologist;*

Answer: Please see below.

- 2020 – 7 weeks, 4 days
- 2021 – 5 weeks, 3 days
- 2022 – 7 weeks
- 2023 – 13 weeks, 3 days

\* First radiotherapy treatment commenced on a cancer pathway between Decision to Treat and Treatment Start Date. Data compiled from existing patient administration database implemented October 2020; the Trust does not hold the required information in legacy systems pre-October 2020.

*c. a scheduled radiotherapy session\*, following the initiation of radiotherapy treatment;*

Answer: Please see below

- 2020 – 15 weeks, 6 days
- 2021 – 18 weeks, 3 days
- 2022 – 21 weeks
- 2023 – 8 weeks

\* Subsequent radiotherapy treatment commenced on a cancer pathway between Decision to Treat and Treatment Start Date. Data compiled from existing patient administration database implemented October 2020; the Trust does not hold the required information in legacy systems pre-October 2020.

*d. a diagnostic test or procedure related to radiotherapy planning, following the referral from a radiation oncologist.*

Answer: Please see response to question 1.

*2. The number of unresolved radiotherapy referrals, and the longest length of time the referral has been pending.*

Answer: Please see response to question 1.