

Title

Cancer Treatment Capacity

Reference Number: RDF1470-23

Date of Response: 30/05/2023

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).

Does the trust have a plan, either internal or external, to ensure that overall cancer treatment capacity within the trust is on target to meet the extra 13% extra capacity specified in the NHS 2023/24 priorities and operational planning? If the trust does not have such a plan, by what date will it have one?

Response:

- The reference to 13% increase in Cancer treatment capacity is a national expectation and not one that is being specifically monitored at an individual provider level. Elective recovery funding has been committed for 2023/24 covering all elective services, but for cancer services in particular the Trust has £8.3m of schemes that are directly cancer-related, which we expect to enable us to diagnose see and treat in excess of 29,000 outpatients, and 7,000 elective inpatients and day cases. The Trust has and is continuing to develop a Cancer services recovery plan, which aims to continue to improve access and cancer treatment for patients.
- The oncology and haematology departments have secured recurrent funding to develop and expand the workforce to deliver the new NICE technology appraisals for cancer drug treatments.
- In addition, the Trust continues to work closely with the cancer alliance and integrated care board to explore new ways and models of working, enabling a cost-effective approach to meeting the growing demands across the cancer footprint.