

Follow Up Waiting List

Reference Number: RDF1845-23

Date of Response: 11/10/23

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 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).

1. *How many patients does the trust have on its 'follow up' appointment waiting lists? Please provide this as a total AND broken down by treatment function (as per the spreadsheet).*

Answer: Please see table overleaf. In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients/staff and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases ≤ 5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

*Please note that if only one cell required suppression, at least one other number has been suppressed to avoid calculation of suppressed values from the totals. (if information presented in table format with totals)

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authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.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. *How many of these patients on the follow up waiting list have:
(a) 'due dates', and
(b) How many do not?
(Please provide this as a total and also by treatment function).*

Answer: Please see table overleaf.

<i>Treatment Function</i>	<i>1. Number of patients on trust's 'follow up' appointment waiting lists</i>	<i>2.(a) Number with 'due dates'</i>	<i>2.(b) Number without 'due dates'</i>
<i>General Surgery Service</i>	1,113	203	910
<i>Urology Service</i>	3,496	610	2,886
<i>Trauma and Orthopaedic Service</i>	6,907	1,258	5,649
<i>Ear Nose and Throat Service</i>	2,405	880	1,525
<i>Ophthalmology Service</i>	18,059	3,231	14,828
<i>Oral Surgery Service</i>	1,880	832	1,048
<i>Neurosurgical Service</i>	-	-	-
<i>Plastic Surgery Service</i>	1,704	358	1,346
<i>Cardiothoracic Surgery Service</i>	7	*≤5	6
<i>General Internal Medicine Service</i>	815	234	581
<i>Gastroenterology Service</i>	2,049	552	1,497
<i>Cardiology Service</i>	8,704	1,299	7,405
<i>Dermatology Service</i>	5,333	950	4,383
<i>Respiratory Medicine Service</i>	2,837	706	2,131
<i>Neurology Service</i>	5,367	752	4,615
<i>Rheumatology Service</i>	5,195	840	4,355
<i>Elderly Medicine Service</i>	1,487	207	1,280
<i>Gynaecology Service</i>	3,214	479	2,735
<i>Other - Medical Services</i>	15,282	5,085	10,197
<i>Other - Mental Health Services</i>	-	-	-
<i>Other - Paediatric Services</i>	2,155	325	1,830
<i>Other - Surgical Services</i>	6,593	1,422	5,171
<i>Other - Other Services</i>	384	191	193
Total	94,986	*20,410 to 20,416	74,571

3. *For those patients who have passed their due date, how many have had a harm review? Please list:*

(a) The number of harm reviews which concluded no harm was done because of delays to care

(b) The number of harm reviews which concluded patient was harmed by delays to care.

(c) The number of harm reviews which concluded a patient died due to delays to care

Answer: The Trust holds the information however, to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation and validation of information from various sources; systems (including legacy systems) and individual records. The information requested is not coded to enable the Trust to extract a report and would require the manual review of 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.

4. *Does the trust report follow up patients in its regular waiting list minimum dataset (WLMDS) submissions? Yes/No*

Answer: Yes.

5. *Does the trust start an RTT clock for such patients when they become overdue, and how is 'overdue' defined? Yes/No and explanatory text*

Answer: Patients on a follow up wait list would likely already be on an RTT clock if they have not started active treatment but are awaiting treatment. The clock stops when a treatment commences. Patients on a follow up wait list who are not being referred for treatment or surgery but are being monitored or remain under surveillance would not be on an RTT clock. The clock is stopped.