

## Title Cancer Diagnostic Tests

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Reference Number: RDF1968-23

Date of Response: 15/11/23

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).

Please note, the following data is only based on DM01 reportable diagnostic tests.

1. [How many patients are currently on your trust's waiting list for a cancer diagnostic test?](#)

As at 31/10/2023 there were 1,024 patients awaiting a diagnostic test with a 2 week wait priority.

2. [How many patients were on your trust's waiting list for a cancer diagnostic test 12 months ago?](#)

Please note, we have not been able to use all the data sources we used for question 1 because some of the waiting list snapshots from 12 months ago do not include the urgency/priority of the waiting list, so we are unable to determine if they were a 2 week wait. From partial data, as at 31/10/2023 there were 808 patients awaiting a diagnostic test with a 2 week wait priority.

3. [What is the longest time a patient has had to wait for a cancer diagnostic test in the last 12 months?](#)

We have been unable to answer this question due to the time it will take to validate over 7,000 patients who have been seen in the last 12 months and are recorded in the data as having waited over 2 weeks for their diagnostic test. We would need to validate these to determine the true longest wait patient. To conduct 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. How many cancer diagnostic tests have been cancelled by your trust for non-clinical reasons in the last 12 months?

Hospital cancellations are not grouped into non-clinical reasons, so therefore over 3000 patients would need to be validated on the hospital reason for cancellation.

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5. What is the highest number of times a cancer diagnostic test for one patient has been cancelled by your trust for non-clinical reasons in the last 12 months?

As in response to question 4. Hospital cancellations are not grouped into non-clinical reasons, so therefore over 3000 patients would need to be validated on the hospital reason

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