

## 24-Hour Wait in A&E

Reference Number: RDF2255-24

Date of Response: 12/02/24

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 would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act on 24 hour waits at A&E.*

1. *How many patients in A&E waited 24 hours or more from time of arrival until admission in each of the following calendar years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.*
2. *Of these patients, how many were aged a) under 18 and b) over 65. Please can you break this information down again by the following calendar years: 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019.*

Answer: Please see table below. 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 and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases  $\leq 5$  is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

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within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of and should not be published.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. How many patients in A&E waited 24 hours or more from time of arrival until admission in each of the following calendar years: 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019	17	8	31	*	*
2. Of these patients, how many were aged a) under 18. (Please can you break this information down again by the following calendar years: 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019)	Nil	Nil	$\leq 5$	*	*
b) over 65. (Please can you break this information down again by the following calendar years: 2023, 2021, 2020, 2019)	$\leq 5$	$\leq 5$	18	*	*

\*The Trust has considered your request however, to provide you with accurate information for the years 2022 and 2023 the Trust would need to review and validate the attendance data from the current and legacy electronic healthcare

record (EHR) systems, due to the implementation of the current EHR in 2022. It is estimated that analysing the data would take in excess of 76 hours.

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 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.