

Title

Patient Referrals Due to Weight Limits

Reference Number: RDF2336-24

Date of Response: 07/03/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

1. The number of patients sent to an alternative provider because they exceeded the weight limit for MRI scans, CT scans or weighing scales within your hospital(s) in 2023.

Joint Eastern and Northern Service:

For CT and MRI: unable to answer as Radiology are not responsible for re-referring. We would offer advice if required however, we do not have a record of individual patients.

*Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information act: - please see exemption of page 2.

2. The number of patients sent to an alternative provider because they exceeded the weight limit for MRI scans, CT scans or weighing scales within your hospital(s) in 2022.

Joint Eastern and Northern Service: Please see answer to question 1.

3. The names of the alternative providers used by your hospital(s) for CT scans, MRI scans and weighing scales for patients who exceed the weight limit for equipment within your hospital(s).

Joint Eastern and Northern Service: We do not hold this information. We have not been asked to advise on any other providers.

4. How many patients have been sent to each alternative provider in the last two years because they exceed the weight limit for MRI scans, CT scans or weighing scales.

Joint Eastern and Northern Service: This question is not applicable.

5. Why doesn't the hospital have facilities to weigh these patients?

Northern Service answer: The Trust has scales that are able to weigh up to 300kg, which is in excess of the weight limits of the CT and MRI scanners.

Eastern Service Answer: We are able to weigh patients in excess of the weight limits of the CT and MR scanners.

6. How much does referral of patients who exceed the weight limit for equipment at your hospital(s) to alternative providers cost your hospital(s) per annum for the previous two financial years?

Joint Eastern and Northern Service: Unable to answer as Radiology are not responsible for re-referring.

7. How many requests for CT scans, MRI scans and weighing of patients have been declined by your hospital(s) in the last two years because patients have exceeded the weight limits for equipment.

Northern Service answer: North: CT-None MRI - None

Eastern Service Answer: *Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information act

We do not have a record of individual patients. The only data that is held is part of a patient's medical record held within the Electronic Patient Record (EPR). This data it would not be appropriate to release under FOI as it is personal data and would not be lawful or transparent to patients to view their records for this purpose. As such it is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information act as it is in breach of Principle 1 of the UK GDPR