

Title

Neurology-referred patients - tests

Reference Number: RDF1880-23

Date of Response: 06/10/23

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).

I am interested in neurology-referred patients tested in the previous 12 months. Could you please instead tell me the number of patients referred by neurology to be tested using:

- **Lumbar puncture** –
Northern response: - 38
Eastern Service – 81
- **PET (if applicable)** – Northern & Eastern – The Trust does not hold this information. No PET Scanner on site.
- **SPECT (if applicable)** - Eastern - * <5 procedures with a specialty of Neurology. The Trust holds this information, however Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Trust applies the following Exemption:

*<5 Section 40 (2)

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.

The Trust recognises that whilst the information requested does not itself identify the patient(s), the question are asking for numbers of a specific and non - routine scan, and due to the low number of cases involved, to provide this detail would create a potential for the patient(s) concerned to be identified.

The Trust believes that the release of such sensitive information meets the definition of personal data and disclosing the information would contravene one of the data protection principles set out in article 5 of the UK GDPR. As such release of the information would be likely to cause distress to the individuals concerned and their families.

- **MRI/CT - Northern & Eastern** – 3134.