



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-397

Date: 26th January 2023

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 3rd October 2022, which we have received into our department today, 19th October 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding MRI Scan Waiting times.

On 21st October 2022 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification: Whether you want to understand of those who were still waiting for an appointment as of 31st December 2018 - what was their average wait time (From request), or, whether it's based on those who had their imaging appointment during that time, what was the average Request to Appointment wait profile.

On 2nd November 2022 you replied via email with:
'Thank you for your email of 31 October 2022. We would wish to understand of those who were waiting for an appointment as of 31 December 2018 what their average waiting time was from the date of the request.'

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 In December 2018, what was the Trust average waiting time for an outpatient MRI scan of the spine?

A1 Based on waiting list snapshot as of 31/12/2018 the average waiting time for Outpatient MRI Spine was 2.5 weeks (based on wait time from Request date to 31st December, irrespective of whether an appointment is booked)
Please note this may include 'planned' patients, and is not indicative of actual wait profile at the point of an appointment being attended.

Based on following codes:
L Spine: MLSPN
Whole Spine: MWSPN
Cervical Spine: MCSPN

Q2 In December 2018, what was the Trust average waiting time for an outpatient MRI scan of the spine for a patient with an MRI compatible pace maker, if those statistics exist?

A2 Based on waiting list snapshot as of 31/12/2018 there were <5 patients awaiting an Outpatients MRI Spine with Pacemaker. The waiting time as at 31/12/2018 was 2 weeks.

We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Yours,

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer

