

**Information Governance**

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Ref: FOI2018/4807

Date Received: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Response Due: 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018

30<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Dear

**INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the FOI Act.

*1) What, if anything, is being done to bring these waiting lists back under control so patients are seen within the target 18 weeks?*

*The National waiting time standard states' 92% of patients on an incomplete pathway should have been waiting no more than 18 weeks. Patients who meet the criteria for treatment on the Elective site are treated in accordance with National waiting time standards. Patients who require treatment on the acute site may wait longer as demands on unscheduled care take priority. Every effort is made to list patients on the elective treatment sites in the first instance.*

*2) When were the waiting lists for this type of surgery last under 18 weeks?*

We have checked the data on our systems from April 2014 to date and the waiting list has always been above 18 weeks for this procedure.

*3) How much does it cost the Trust when a patient breaches?*

There is no financial penalty associated with the National 18 week referral to treatment times for incomplete pathways. The target is 92% of all patients waiting must be below 18 weeks. The Trust achieves this consistently at aggregate level. There is a £5,000 penalty associated should a patient wait over 52 weeks for first definitive treatment. Year to date the Trust has had no patients who breached 52 weeks.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Foster', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Foster  
Chief Executive

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF