

Ref: FOI2021/7581

Date Received: 7th July 2021

Response Due: 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

**This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**I would like the following information in a digital format:**

- 1. The number of eye examinations held in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, broken down quarterly if possible.**

Please find attached the number of eye examination, broken down quarterly as requested.

- 2. The number of diagnoses of wet and dry macular degeneration, brain tumour(s), and open-angle, angle-closure, and secondary glaucoma which might have been detected by an eye examination in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, broken down quarterly if possible.**

Please find attached the numbers of patient's diagnosed with the conditions requested, however, please note that the Trust does not code such conditions in a manner that enables the identification of the source of diagnosis i.e., detected by eye examination. Moreover, please also note that this data does not include any diagnoses recorded against Outpatient Attendances.

- 3. The number of people diagnosed with sight loss, or partial sight loss, or other visual impairment, for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.**

Please find attached the numbers of patient's diagnosed with the conditions requested, however, please also note that this data does not include any diagnoses recorded against Outpatient Attendances.

- 4. An estimate of the number of people whose conditions above have become significantly worse because of the lower rates of eye exams during Covid.**

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

**5. Where this information is held, I would like the above information to be broken down by age range, ethnicity, and gender.**

Please see information broken down by ethnicity and gender above. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide age ranges, as requested, due to the manner in which this data is recorded.

**Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information**

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

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,



Rebecca Lyon  
Director of Operations – Specialist Services/Division of Surgery

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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: Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Information Governance Department, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow

Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113