

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2023/8680

Date Received: 9th February 2023

Response Due: 9th March 2023

Date: 7th March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

Could you please provide the following information relating to general anaesthesia (GA) paediatric dental waiting times for children under 18 in hospitals managed by your Trust.

1. Total number of children currently on your waiting lists and for each of the past five years.

Year	Number on waiting list
2020	586
2021	406
2022	91
Current (2023)	96

Data from 2020 - 2022 is each Year End Position

Historical Data from 2018-2019 is not available due to a change in reporting processes during this period.

2. The average waiting time from referral to treatment by year for each of the past five years.

Year	Average Weeks Wait
2020	77
2021	46
2022	34
2023	43

As above, from 2018-2019 is not available due to a change in reporting processes during this period.

3. The total number of children currently on the waiting list who have waited more than a) six months b) one year c) 18 months.

Months	Number Waiting
> 6 Months	66
> 12 Months	5
> 18 Months	<5

4. The five longest waits faced by people currently on the waiting list in days.

	Days Wait
1	434
2	427
3	390
4	384
5	380

5. The number of children (under 18s) who have a surgical procedure cancelled or delayed at your trust, in each of the past five calendar years (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018). If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information.

Year	Number of Cancelled Procedures
2018	217
2019	243
2020	79
2021	124
2022	451

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

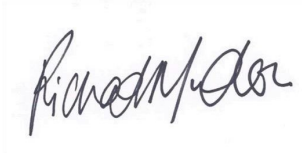
The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

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).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on email address provided. 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Mundon', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Mundon
Director of Strategy and Planning

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: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, 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