

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/2025/10664

Date Received: 10th April 2025

Response Due: 19th May 2025

Date: 28th April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 10th April 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do not hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. I would like the below information for each of the past five complete years (2020-2024).
 - **Waiting times for further investigation referrals from GPs for prostate cancer patients.**
 - **Waiting times for treatment (surgery, radiotherapy, hormone therapy, chemotherapy) for prostate cancer patients.**
 - **Waiting times for further investigation referrals from GPs for head and neck cancer patients.**
 - **Waiting times for treatment (surgery, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, chemotherapy) for head and neck cancer patients.**

Clarification requested: Please can you clarify whether “waiting times” means the overall average waiting time?

Response: Yes, “waiting times” means the overall average (mean) waiting time per year.

Clarification requested: Can you also clarify which investigations you are referring to in “further investigations”?

Response: I mean the waiting time between a referral from a GP to seeing a specialist in hospital.

The Trust reports cancer waiting times by 28 days, 31 days and 62 days meaning we are unable to obtain the mean waiting time. We would only be able to establish that patients are on the cancer waiting list and would not be able to identify the type of cancer the patient has as this is not centrally recorded, 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.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 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 'Hazel Hendriksen', followed by a period.

Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

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 123 111