

# 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](mailto:foi@wwl.nhs.uk)

Web: [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2025/10974

Date Received: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Response Due: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information please:**

**1. The current total number of patients on the vascular non-admitted waiting list at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust split into:**

- **Arterial patients**
- **Venous patients**

There are 1,303 patients on non-admitted waiting list currently.

The Trust is unable to split this into arterial and venous patients 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.

**2. The current number of patients on the vascular non-admitted waiting list who have already waited:**

- **Longer than 65 weeks** = 4.
- **Between 52 and 64 weeks** = 149.
- **Between 40 and 51 weeks** = 222.
- **Between 18 and 39 weeks** = 414.
- **Less than 18 weeks** = 514.

**3. How long is your longest non-admitted waiter?**

67 weeks.

**Clarification requested:** Do you want the longest waiter for Vascular or the longest RTT wait?

**Clarification response:** The longest vascular RTT wait.

**4. For routine venous patients being referred now, what month are you booking them into for their first outpatient appointment?**

Routine patients referred in August 2024 have been booked a first appointment in September 2025. The Trust is unable to identify exactly when routine patients referred in today will be seen as they will be on the waiting list for some time first, but if following the same timeline, it will be September 2026.

**5. The current number of patients on the admitted waiting list that are listed for varicose vein intervention, either unilateral or bilateral. This could be:**

- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)
  - Foam sclerotherapy
  - Phlebectomies/avulsions
  - Vein stripping
  - Endovenous laser treatment (EVLT)
- 2 patients.

**6. The average full RTT waiting time for varicose vein patients**

July = 63 weeks.

Year to date = 60.13 weeks.

The above information is based on admitted completed patients only.

**Clarification requested:** Do you want the average waiting time for completing Vascular patients for RTT? Is this just for the July PTL or the year to date?

**Clarification response:** Would it be possible to ask for both? For those who have completed their treatment in this year, the average time it took for them to come to the end of their pathway. And then for just those that completed their treatment in July.

**7. Where do you treat your varicose vein patients? Is it in Main Theatre, Minor Ops, or an Outpatient setting?**

In the day case unit, in theatre and in minor ops room.

**8. How many varicose vein patients would you normally treat on an intervention list? Please could you provide this information broken down by half day or full day list?**

This would depend on the complexity and whether GA or LA or a mixture. Mostly 304 for a half day list and 6-8 for a full day list.

**9. Do you run pure varicose vein intervention lists or are patients mixed into regular vascular lists?**

Varicose Vein procedures are done on the day case list in the day case unit. Lists seldom include non-varicose vein day-case procedures and do not include major arterial surgery.

**10. Do your varicose vein patients attend a one stop diagnostic and consultation appointment?**

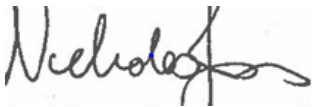
Sometimes.

**11. If not, how long is your current wait for a diagnostic appointment?**

Our current waiting list for routine scans is around 10 weeks. This fluctuates according to the number of referrals received, the urgency of referrals and availability of staff. Urgent scans such as bleeding varicose veins are scanned promptly, usually within a few days.

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 'Nicholas Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Jones  
Directorate Manager for 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: 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