

Ref: FOI/2025/11138

Date Received: 13th October 2025

Response Due: 10th November 2025

Date: 7th November 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13th October 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:

FOI Officer, I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the workforce supporting head and neck cancer services within your NHS Trust.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information, ideally as of the most recent available data (please state the date of data collection): 24/10/2025.

1. Staffing Numbers - Please provide the number of individuals currently working within the Trust in each of the following roles, where they are involved in the care of patients with head and neck cancer (even if this is part of a broader remit):

a. Consultant Clinical Oncologists

0, please redirect this question to The Christies at the-christie.foi@nhs.net.

b. Consultant Medical Oncologists

0.

c. Head and Neck Surgeons (e.g. ENT/OMFS/Plastics)

Head & Neck = x1 full time.

ENT = x4 (x1 part time).

OMFS = x1 full time, at Manchester Royal Infirmary hospital.

d. Consultant Radiologists (with a head and neck subspecialty, if available)

x1 part time.

e. Therapeutic Radiographers

0, please redirect this question to The Christies.

f. Diagnostic Radiographers

0 employed specifically within the Head & Neck/ENT Team.

g. Histopathologists/Pathologists

0 employed specifically within the Head & Neck/ENT Team.

h. Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs)

Head & Neck and OMFS = x1 0.8WTE.

i. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) specialising in Head and Neck Cancer

3, x1 full time, x1 0.6WTE and x1 0.8 WTE.

j. Dietitians supporting Head and Neck Cancer patients

0.

k. Psychologists or Counsellors providing support to Head and Neck Cancer patients

0.

l. Maxillofacial Prosthetists or Technologists

0.

m. MDT Coordinators

Head & Neck = 1.

2. Workforce Capacity Details - For each of the above roles, where available, please also include:

- **Number of Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) posts**
Please see the above.
- **Number of current vacancies (both WTE and headcount)**
7.5 hours at Band 6 in Nursing.
- **Any known workforce planning or succession data, such as:**
 - **Anticipated retirements in the next 5 years**
 - **Recruitment challenges specific to these roles**
None.

3. Service Context - If applicable, please also indicate:

- **The hospitals or trusts within your Alliance where head and neck cancer services are provided**
Patients who require Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy or Immunotherapy are referred to the Christie Hospital for treatment.
Patients who require extensive Head & Neck surgery are referred to Wythenshawe.
Patients who require any OMFS surgery are referred to Manchester Royal Infirmary.
There is no inpatient OMFS service at WWL.
- **Whether head and neck services are centralised or provided across multiple MDTs.**
Head & Neck is not centralised. At WWL, our Head & Neck patients are discussed on the Greater Manchester MDT along with Wythenshawe, Northern Care Alliance, The Christies, Manchester Royal Infirmary and Stockport.

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 'Lee Unsworth', written in a cursive style.

Lee Unsworth
Directorate Manager for Radiology, Cancer Services and Pathology

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