

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/2024/9715

Date Received: 13th March 2024

Response Due: 12th April 2024

Date: 12th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 13th March 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. **The total number of patients currently on the waiting list to receive speech and language therapy services.**
Please see attached.
2. **A breakdown of the waiting list by age groups (0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-18 years, 18+ years) for the latest calendar year 2023.**
Please see attached.
3. **A breakdown of the number of patients by age group waiting from referral to first appointment:**
 - **0-1 weeks (0-7 days)**
 - **1-2 weeks (8-14 days)**
 - **2-4 weeks (15-28 days)**
 - **4-12 weeks (29-84 days)**
 - **12-18 weeks (85-126 days)**
 - **18-52 weeks (127-364 days)**
 - **Over 52 weeks (over 365days)**Please see attached.
4. **Historical data on the waiting list – the total number of patients waiting for speech and language services, a breakdown by age group and weeks waiting for 2019, 2020 and 2021 or the latest year for when records began.**
Please see attached.

Please note the “Number of Patients waiting for a Speech & Language Therapy Service by Age Groups 11-15, 16-18 and 19+” are being withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the numbers would indicate the actual less than 5 figures in Question 2 and would make individual patients identifiable.

Section 40(2) is an ‘absolute’ exemption, and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information. Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

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 blue ink that reads "Desai P.A." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paritosh Desai
Divisional Director of Operations & Performance (Medicine)

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