

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/2023/9401

Date Received: 15th November 2023

Response Due: 13th December 2023

Date: 18th December 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 15th November 2023, 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 number of (a) first consultant appointments after an urgent referral, (b) first definitive cancer treatments, and (c) subsequent cancer treatments, that were cancelled or rescheduled by your trust in financial year 2022/23:

(i) once

(b) twice

(c) three times or more

No of Cancelled 1st Cancer Appointment	Count of Cancellations by Status		
	1	2	3
	815	49	<5

Please note the Trust are unable to provide any data for (b) first definitive cancer treatments, (c) subsequent cancer treatments and Cancelled Inpatient or Outpatient Activity as this is not centrally recorded in the granular detail required to fulfil this request.

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.

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:

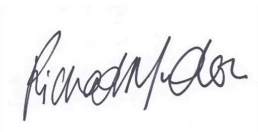
- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

2. The most amount of times the date was changed on a single one of the above cancer appointments by your trust in FY 2022/23.

The maximum number of times that a patient had a first cancer consultant outpatient appointment cancelled by the Trust was three.

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,



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, Wroughtington, 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