

Ref: FOI/2024/9544

Date Received: 18th January 2024

Response Due: 15th February 2024

Date: 14th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 18th January 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. For the calendar year of 2023, please could you tell me how many individual MRI examinations were performed overall?

27119

2. For the calendar year of 2023, please could you give a breakdown of the individual MRI examinations performed into body part/area? For instance, how many brain scans, spine scans etc. I am happy with whichever body part description is input in the PACS system.

Please see attached.

3. As of the start of 2024, what would the waiting time be (in weeks) for a routine MRI scan (for example how long would a patient have to wait if they were referred for a routine MRI scan of their knee)?

Please see attached.

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).

4. How much money was paid to private companies during the calendar year 2023 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies staffing hospital scanners to scan NHS patients?

The Trust does not record this information by calendar year, for financial year 22/23 - £637,383.

5. From question 4 which companies were used and how many patients were scanned?

Alliance Medical Limited

The Trust does not record this information by calendar year, for financial year 22/23 - 9,083.

6. How many MRI scanners does the Trust own?

3

7. From question 6 could I please have the manufacturer, model, and date of install of the MRI scanners?

Siemens Sola March 2020
Siemens Sola Fit (upgraded August 2023)
Siemens Altea November 2023

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,



Hazel Hendriksen
Director of Operations and Performance

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