

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Buckingham Row

Brick Kiln Lane

Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9862

Date Received: 17th May 2024

Response Due: 17th June 2024

Date: 17th June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 17th May 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 number of patients who were on a waiting list at your Trust to start treatment following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer for the each of the following financial years.

Financial Year	Number of Patients waiting at March Month End
2019/20	Unavailable – see below.
2020/21	147
2021/22	203
2022/23	161
2023/24	354

2. The number of patients who were on a waiting list at your Trust following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer who waited longer than i) 62-days, ii) six-months, iii) 12-months to start treatment for the each of the following financial years.

Financial Year	Waits longer than 62 days	Waits longer than 6 months	Waits longer than 12 months
2019/20	Unavailable – see below.		
2020/21	13	<5	0
2021/22	41	22	0
2022/23	31	0	0
2023/24	89	49	0

3. The longest a patient waited who was on a waiting list at your Trust following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer to start treatment in the financial year 2023/24.

This information is being withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as releasing this information could make the patient identifiable.

Data for 2019/20 is unavailable for Question 1 and 2 as the way RTT (Referral to Treatment) changed during this period. Due to issues within this time period, this data would not be an accurate representation of the time.

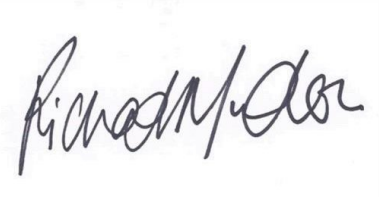
The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

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).

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, 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