



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

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Ref: FOI/2024/9646

Date Received: 20th February 2024

Response Due: 19th March 2024

Date: 19th March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 20th February 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 waited a) over 124 days (i.e. 4 months) and b) over 186 days (i.e. 6 months) between an urgent referral from their GP and starting their first treatment for cancer. Please can you provide figures for each of the past four calendar years (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020).

2020

Over 124 days - 23

Over 186 days - 5

2021

Over 124 days - 19

Over 186 days - 5

2022

Over 124 days - 27

Over 186 days - <5

2023

Over 124 days - 31

Over 186 days - 6

2. The single longest wait in days for a patient to start cancer treatment, as measured from the date of the urgent referral, in the 2023 calendar year?

266 days

3. The current longest wait in days for a patient still waiting to start their cancer treatment, as measured from the date of urgent referral.

194 days

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,



Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

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, Wroughton, 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