

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-143

7 March 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some of the information you are requesting

1. What was the longest a patient at your Trust waited (in weeks/days) for -

a) a first consultant appointment, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

We do not hold this information in a reportable format. Cancer waiting times data do not differentiate between patients first seen in outpatients or for a diagnostic test.

b) being told they have cancer, or cancer being definitively excluded, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

We do hold this information. Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

c) a first treatment for cancer, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

d) a diagnostic test or procedure, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait

pathway

We do not hold this information in a reportable format. Cancer waiting times data do not differentiate between patients first seen in outpatients or for a diagnostic test.

In each of the following calendar years – 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022?

For ease of response, I have provided the following table:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Longest wait for a first consultant appointment, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway					
Longest wait for being told they have cancer, or cancer being definitively excluded, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway					
Longest wait for a first treatment for cancer, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway					
Longest wait for a diagnostic test or procedure, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway					

2. At the end of January 2023, what was the longest a patient at your Trust had been waiting (in weeks/days) for -

a) a first consultant appointment, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

We do not hold this information in a reportable format. Cancer waiting times data do not differentiate between patients first seen in outpatients or for a diagnostic test.

b) being told they have cancer, or cancer being definitively excluded, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

We do hold this information. Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

c) a first treatment for cancer, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

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d) a diagnostic test or procedure, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway?

We do not hold this information in a reportable format. Cancer waiting times data do not differentiate between patients first seen in outpatients or for a diagnostic test.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust