

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-394

23 June 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 do hold the information you are requesting

Please answer the following questions regarding your long covid paediatric hub for children and young people:

1. Please disclose how many children and young people are currently awaiting treatment – either a first assessment or otherwise – for post-covid syndrome at your hub. This should be at the time of the FOI's submission or completion, whichever is later, to capture the figure as accurately as possible.

Zero. There is no waiting list for long Covid services in the Trust.

- If you hold historical data as to how many patients were waiting during a particular month then please disclose this as well. For instance, in December 2019, [X] patients had been waiting longer than [Y] weeks for their first assessment for post-covid syndrome

2. Please disaggregate this data where possible. I understand it may be separated by those waiting longer than six weeks, 12 weeks, 18 weeks and so on as an example. If this is the case, then please do so.

The information below covers the period 1 October 2021 to 4 December 2022 and is taken from the data that we submit to NHSE (NHS England):

The waiting time from referral to initial specialist assessment at the Trust's long Covid hub for children and young people since it began operating, broken down as follows: 0-6 weeks, 6-12 weeks, 12-18 weeks, more than 18 weeks

0-6 weeks	118
6-12 weeks	*

12-18 weeks	0
More than 18 weeks	*

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. (Section 40 is the exemption for personal information).

We don't report individual patient wait times but instead report in categories as follows:

Wait times	TOTAL in wait category	Weekly average no. waits
0-6 days	6	0.2
7-13 days	25	0.9
14 - 20 days	31	1.1
21 - 27 days	27	1.0
28 - 34 days	17	0.6
35 - 41 days	12	0.4
42 - 48 days	*	0.0
49 - 55 days	*	0.0
56 - 62 days	*	0.0
63 - 69 days	0	0.0
70 - 76 days	0	0.0
77 - 83 days	0	0.0
84 - 90 days	0	0.0
91 - 97 days	0	0.0
98+ days	*	0.0

There were 8 referrals received to the service after 4th December. These were not assessed

before it closed and will have been referred to another hub.

3. In June 2021, NHS England announced £70m in new funding to set up these long covid paediatric hubs. Please disclose how much this hub is being funded for.

1/10/2021 - 31/3/2022 - £75,947.50

1/4/2022 - 31/03/2023 - £80,000

1/04/2023 – Not Funded

- This should be disaggregated by financial year, both up to now and for how the length of time it is still funded for (e.g., up until March 2025)

4. Please disclose if the hub is still operational and how long the hub is stipulated to run for (e.g., up until March 2025)

The hub started in October 2021 and closed on 31st March 2023.

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