

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-605

29 August 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

1. As of today's date, how many of your hospitals provide a psychodermatology service on-site? Please name them.

Bristol Royal Infirmary.

2. As of today's date, how many patients with eczema have accessed your psychodermatology services in the last 12 months? What % of patients accessing your psychodermatology services does this represent?

* patients - 8% of referrals.

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

3. As of today's date, how many patients with eczema are on the waiting list to access your psychodermatology services? What % of patients waiting to access your psychodermatology services does this represent?

* patients - 10% of referrals.

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

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4. As of today's date, how long, on average, are patients on the waiting list to access your psychodermatology services?

10-12 weeks

5. As of today's date, what % of patients currently accessing your psychodermatology services have had to be referred to you from other areas of the country as psychodermatology services are not available where they live ie what % of patients are utilising the service who don't live within the area the Trust is responsible for?

30% from Bath

20% from Swindon

10% from Gloucester

10% from Cornwall

30% from Bristol/North Somerset

6. How far does the patient accessing your psychodermatology services who lives the furthest away from the hospital have to travel? I know that some psychodermatology services around the country are taking patients who live three hours, or more, away as these services are so rare across the UK

Approximately 4 hours

7. As of today's date, which skin conditions (top 5) were the most commonly referred to your psychodermatology services in the last 12 months? Please rank them 1-5.

1. Delusions of Infestation

2. Acne/mental health/ Body dysmorphic disorder

3. Psychological impact of skin disease- mainly Hidradenitis suppurativa

4. Medically unexplained skin symptoms

5. Body focused repetitive behaviours

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