

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-942

20 December 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 may you provide me with:

1. The total number of children on a waiting list for speech and language therapy as of 1st December 2023, and on the 1st December for each year, since 2010.

	Paediatrics
December 2018	*
December 2019	*
December 2020	8
December 2021	9
December 2022	*
December 2023	12

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providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

Please note that we do not hold archived waiting list information prior to 2018

Please also note that these are patients on a waiting list. Some outpatients (especially paediatrics) are booked directly into clinic without being added to a waiting list.

2. The total number of adults on a waiting list for speech and language therapy as of 1st December 2023, and on the 1st December for each year, since 2010.

	Adults
December 2018	100
December 2019	142
December 2020	108
December 2021	127
December 2022	148
December 2023	243

Please note that we do not hold archived waiting list information prior to 2018

Please also note that these are patients on a waiting list. Some outpatients are booked directly into clinic without being added to a waiting list.

3. The single longest number of days that an individual child spent on a waiting list for speech and language therapy, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

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.

4. The single longest number of days that an individual adult spent on a waiting list for speech and language therapy, broken down by financial year, since 2010.

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.

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