

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 20-276

24 June 2020

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. Is there a written plan for return to ophthalmology and Cataract surgery at the Hospital?

Yes.

- a. Please share if possible

Please see attached.

2. Are there dates for Planned Return for the trust to start Cataract Surgery?

Yes pilot/ cycle 1 (Plan, Do, Study, Act) PDSA 3rd July dependencies on PPE, staffing and testing capacity.

3. Are there any further details on

- a. A phased return to Ophthalmology/Cataract surgery (25% 50% 75% 100%)?

Ambition to test at 50% 3rd July 2020 and return to 75% in current plan with some timetable review to be completed but not yet clear if 100% will be feasible until we have extended working days and or working on other sites (IS) etc.

- b. A set timeline on the phased return to Ophthalmology / Cataract surgery?

No set timeline due to unknown factors beyond our control however gradual increase anticipated within practical limitations Increase from one day per week to 2 then 3 with surgeon availability social distancing, PPE, testing and risk.

Controls are in place within Trust Theatre Prioritisation group to ensure patients are prioritised appropriately according to clinical urgency and Trust resource capacity.

4. How is Cataract surgery being prioritised?

- a. If there is a grading system please clarify the details?

Cataract surgery is prioritised by risk stratification process however within Ophthalmology patient cohort cataracts were not high priority.

The variables used are taken from the Royal College of Ophthalmology recommendations, but simplifying them as binary variables. These are:

Covid:

- VA 6/24 or worse
Limitation Activity, falls risk, terminal, needed for care
- Symptomatic anisometropia
- Age >75
- Shielding conditions
- Any Covid-19 complications risk increasing condition
- Guarded prognosis

Eye Surgery factors

- Positioning/mobility
- Compliance with the procedure
- Very small or very large eyes. AL <22 or >26, ACD <2.5
- Previous major incisional eye surgery TBC/PPV/PKP
- Any condition increasing risk of lens dislocation. PEX/trauma/donesis
- Small pupil
- Corneal opacity precluding view of the cataract
- Any condition risking endothelial damage such as Fuchs
- Very dense cataract leading to poor or No fundal view
- Posterior polar cataract

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:

Director of Corporate Governance
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

FOI Team
UH Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust