

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-275

2 June 2021

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. Number of yearly cataract surgery procedures between 2016-2019.

2016 = 4422

2017 = 4755

2018 = 4324

2019 = 4890

2. How many cataract surgery lists with how many patients on them are usually run per week or per month? (excluding pandemic times)

14 lists, average 5.71 per week

3. On which days of the week are the lists usually run? (excluding pandemic times)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

4. Is there a difference made between patients that require an experienced surgeon and patients that may also be treated by less-experienced surgeons i.e., Junior Doctors?

Patient's cases are risk stratified by the degree of complexity and risk of complications into "named surgeon", "consultant case" or "low risk case" and are booked appropriately.

5. If 4 is a yes, for which of the cataract surgery lists (question 3) are either experienced and less-experienced or only less-experienced surgeon available? (excluding pandemic times)

All lists are planned to have a consultant present and 80% have junior doctors as well. The only circumstance when junior doctors operate on their own is after vetting by the doctor's supervising consultant, backfilling lists for episodes of doctor leave and booking strictly low risk cases when another consultant is available on the theatre suite floor. These junior doctors usually have in excess of 4 years' experience as eye surgeons.

6. How and by which criteria are cataract surgery patients prioritized? (Before, during and foreseeably after the pandemic)

Patients are prioritised by clinical criteria only at the discretion of the treating doctor.

7. How many patients were on the cataract surgery waiting list between 2016-2019?

2016 = 991

2017 = 870

2018 = 963

2019 = 960

8. How many patients were on average referred to your trust to receive cataract surgery per month between 2016 and 2019?

2016 = Average 181

2017 = Average 174

2018 = Average 117

2019 = Average 85

9. Which characteristics (age, comorbidities, priorities etc.) did the patients have that were referred to your trust per month between 2016 and 2019?

We do not hold this 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:

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

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