

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-177

19 March 2024

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

I'd like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act on cancer treatment wait times at your trust. For each of these questions I am looking for figures consistent with those used for the 62-day referral to treatment standard, i.e. how long in calendar days it took for a patient to start treatment after their referral for suspected cancer and diagnosis, as measured from the date of the urgent referral.

1. The number of patients who waited a) over 124 days (i.e. 4 months) and b) over 186 days (i.e. 6 months) between an urgent referral from their GP and starting their first treatment for cancer. Please can you provide figures for each of the past four calendar years (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020).

Year	>124 days	>186 days
2019	11	*
2020	41	7
2021	49	10
2022	131	16
2023	85	*

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local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

2. The single longest wait in days for a patient to start cancer treatment, as measured from the date of the urgent referral, in the 2023 calendar year?

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.

3. The current longest wait in days for a patient still waiting to start their cancer treatment, as measured from the date of urgent referral.

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