

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-295

15 April 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 not hold the information you are requesting

1. Do you have a specialist service for long Covid patients within your trust? Please name the clinic/service

2. How many patients in your local NHS area have been referred to the clinic/service to date? Please break down by year to date ie 12 months to this date in 2024 and then each of the previous 12 months back to the start of the service

3. Is the service physician-led?

4. Please provide figures for how many patients referred to the clinic/service received the following type of treatment in-house:

- 1. physical rehabilitation – please give details**
- 2. Graded exercise therapy**
- 3. CBT or other psychological intervention – please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them**
- 4. Advice on pacing**

5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)

6. drug treatment

7. other, please specify

8. Does the service have the ability to prescribe medications to long Covid patients for symptoms where appropriate?

9. If so, please list the 3 most common drugs prescribed for long Covid patients by the clinic, with numbers of prescriptions if possible

10. Does the service have the ability to order diagnostic tests and scans?

11. If so please list the 3 most commonly ordered tests/scans/diagnostic questionnaires for long Covid patients by the clinic

12. If not provided in-house, which of the following types of services does the clinic/service refer patients onto or recommend?

1. physical rehabilitation – please give details

2. Graded exercise therapy

3. CBT or other psychological intervention – please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them

4. Advice on pacing

5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)

6. drug treatment

7. other, please specify

13. How many staff do you have working in the service FTE (full time equivalent) broken down by job title of:

a) doctor

b) nurse

c) physiotherapist

d) occupational therapist

e) clinical psychologist/ CBT practitioner / psychotherapist/counsellor

f) other, please specify

14. For any doctors employed, please specify their specialism eg GP, cardiologist, neurologist, psychiatrist

15. Is the clinic expected to continue running after 2025?

We do not hold this information. We do not have a specialist service for long Covid patients.

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