

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-344

23 July 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 hold some of the information you are requesting

We would be grateful if you would please provide us with the following information, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in relation to the average waiting times for corneal collagen cross linking surgery at the Bristol Eye Hospital for patients between the age of 16 and 18 with keratoconus from September 2019 onwards:

1) The average waiting time for corneal collagen cross linking surgery following referral from an ophthalmologist (including internal referrals from Bristol Eye Hospital and from other hospital eye services, such as Royal Eye Infirmary) during the months of:

- a. September 2019:** - Approximately 142 days
- b. October 2019:** - Approximately 35 days
- c. May 2020:** - Approximately 142 days
- d. June 2020:** - Approximately 94 days
- e. July 2020:** - Approximately 93 days
- f. August 2020:** Approximately 62 days

For each period, please provide details of the relevant protocol/guidelines for triaging patients requiring corneal collagen cross linking surgery (i.e. the 'criteria' of the condition

Local guidelines were developed reflecting the indication to treat progressive keratoconus by increases of 1 dioptre of astigmatism leading to contact lens refitting more than once in 2 years, cornea no thinner than 400 micron, no central corneal scar, maximum keratometry under 58D and visual acuity less than 6/7.5.

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