

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-815

15 November 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

1a) Is a multi-disciplinary chronic pain service provided by the Trust? (if yes, please continue to question 2, if no please answer question 1b)

Yes

1b) Where is chronic pain being managed in your organisation for people with:

i) Cancer tumour related pain (i.e. people with a current oncological or haematological cancer diagnosis who are experiencing pain)

ii) Cancer related late effects pain or chronic pain caused by cancer treatments (i.e. pain caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery)

We have a monthly complex cancer pain MDT (multi-disciplinary team) with regional; palliative care MDT, pain clinic physicians and interventional radiology attendance. There is also a weekly joint one hour inpatient palliative care/pain physician ward round and alternative week joint outpatient clinic to see patients with intractable cancer pain or cancer related late effects pain – this has only just started so we have only seen a small number of patients to date.

2) Is the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service based in an acute hospital or a community setting? (please expand if needed)

Acute hospital

3) What is the current waiting time from referral to first appointment at the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service?

Approximately 18 weeks but patients with cancer are seen earlier than this depending on clinical need, this would be no later than 4 weeks but usually within 2 weeks.

4) Since October 2022, how many people did the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service see with:

i) Cancer tumour related pain (i.e. people with a current oncological or haematological cancer diagnosis who are experiencing pain)

11

ii) Cancer related late effects pain or chronic pain caused by cancer treatments (i.e. pain caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery)

5) Can you please provide demographic information (% gender, age range and % ethnicity) for those seen in the multi-disciplinary chronic pain service with:

i) Cancer tumour related pain (i.e. people with a current oncological or haematological cancer diagnosis who are experiencing pain)

ii) Cancer related late effects pain or chronic pain caused by cancer treatments (i.e. pain caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy or surgery)

Gender: *

Age range: 39-74 years

Ethnicity: *

6) If you cannot answer question 5, can you please explain why?

* 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. (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