

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-157

13 March 2025

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we would like to request the following information regarding your Trust's Surgical Hub(s) to gain clarity on governance structures, scope of practice, and performance measurement.

I would appreciate it if you could provide the requested information within the statutory 20 working days. If any part of the information is exempt or unavailable, I kindly ask that you explain the reasons for this and, if possible, provide any partial data that may be accessible.

1. Clinical & Financial Responsibilities

- Who holds clinical accountability for the surgical hub's operations?
- Who holds financial accountability for the surgical hub's budget and procurement decisions?
- How is funding allocated between the hub and the wider trust?

2. Organisational Structure & Governance

- Can you provide an organigram detailing the governance and reporting structure for the surgical hub?
- How does the surgical hub integrate with the broader Trust structure?
- Are there any external partnerships (e.g., with independent providers or regional collaborations)?

3. Existing Scope of Practice

- What surgical Urology, Gynaecology, General Surgery and ENT procedures are currently performed in the hub?
- What are the inclusion/exclusion criteria for cases managed within the hub?
- Are there any service limitations due to staffing, infrastructure, or policy constraints?

4. Planned/Future Scope of Practice

- Are there discussions around integrating additional specialties or increasing surgical capacity specifically in Urology, Gynaecology, General Surgery and ENT?
- Are there any future workforce or equipment investments planned to support hub


expansion?

5. Success Metrics & Reporting Mechanisms

- How is the hub's impact on elective recovery and patient outcomes measured?

By 'Surgical Hub' I mean either a purpose built facility or ring fenced venue and capacity to deliver high volume elective procedures. Perhaps the below definition may support.

Dedicated sites that provide high-volume, planned operations

Surgical hubs are **dedicated sites that provide high-volume, planned operations**. They cover twenty-nine types of operations, including cataract removal, hysterectomies, and hip and knee replacements. The aim of surgical hubs is to reduce the number of patients waiting for surgery and to improve access and quality of care. There are three different types of surgical hub: stand-alone hub, hub within a hospital or integrated hub, and specialist surgical hub.  healthwatchredbridge.co.uk +2

We do not have a ringfenced surgical hub.

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