

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-379

5th June 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 hold the information you are requesting

1. Does your trust provide a chronic pain service? (Yes/No) - Yes

If no, this is the end of our request.

If yes, and the service is consultant-led, please provide:

2. Please confirm that the Trust submits RTT data for this service (yes/no) - Yes

3. Please confirm that the Trust submits WLMDS data for this service (yes/no) – Yes

4. Please supply the Trust's RTT submission for every month between April 2024 and April 2025 (inclusive), but please only show data for TFC 191 - Pain Management. This data is available in the public domain but it is supplied aggregated with other specialities in category: 'X02 - Other - Medical Services'. We are requesting it be disaggregated from this category. Please share this in the format that you have it.

Please see the attached document. 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local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

5. Only if the data requested in #4 is unavailable, please provide the data requested in 5a-e for every month between April 2024 and April 2025:

Not applicable

5a. The number of people on the waiting list, as of the first day of the month

Not applicable

5b. The average waiting time in weeks

19 weeks

5c. The distribution of waiting times, as of the first day of the month (see suggested breakdown in the attached spreadsheet)

5d. Number of clock starts during the month

5e. Number of clock stops during the month for treatment, broken down by reason

5f. Number of clock stops during the month for non-treatment, broken down by reason

Please see the attached document.

6. The average time between clock start and an interventional pain procedure being performed, in weeks

Approximately three months

7. Please provide the Trust definitions used for Pain Management services for:

7a. Clock starts (e.g. referral received, referral received and validated, etc.) - 10

7b. Clock stops for treatment (e.g. first appointment, advice given, information provided, etc.) - 30

7c. Clock stops for non-treatment (please provide breakdown)

We do not hold this information.

If yes, and the service is not consultant-led, please provide:

8. What is the clinician's role who holds overall clinical responsibility, including governance, outcomes and quality, for the service (e.g. specialist nurse, clinical psychologist, other)? We are requesting the person's position rather than any personal information.

9. Does the service provide interventional pain procedures, such as injections? (Yes/No)

9a. If yes, please provide the clinician's role that performs them (e.g. consultant in pain medicine)? We are requesting the person's position rather than any personal information.

9b. If no, where do you refer patients requiring interventional pain procedures to?

10. Please provide the following data for the non-consultant-led Pain Management service for every month between April 2024 and April 2025 (inclusive):

10a. The number of people on the waiting list at the first day of the month

10b. The average waiting time in weeks

10c. The distribution of waiting times, as of the first day of the month (see suggested breakdown in the attached spreadsheet)

10d. The number of new referrals during the month

10e. The number of patients who started treatment during the month (i.e. had their first appointment)

10f. The number of patients discharged without treatment (i.e. rejected referrals)

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