

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-640

26 August 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting aggregate information regarding services provided or commissioned by your Trust in relation to peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP), with a specific focus on:

- Post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP)
- Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP)
- Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN)

Please break down the information by individual service, clinic, and by hospital site.

1. Patient Numbers & Treatment Modalities (Last 12 Months)

For each hospital site or service, please provide:

The number of patients seen for each of the following conditions:

- PSNP
- CRNP (please split into surgically induced and chemotherapy-induced)
- PDPN
- Please also break this down by hospital department.

55 patients. We cannot break this information down for the chronic pain department.

Treatment Modalities

For each hospital site or service, please indicate Yes or No as to whether the following treatment modalities are available for PNP. Where stated yes please provide patient numbers for the latest 12-month period.

- Gabapentin prescriptions - Yes
- Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections - No
- TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) - Yes
- Acupuncture (including PENS – Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) –

Acupuncture only

- Theatre-based nerve stimulation procedures (e.g., spinal cord stimulators or other

implanted/surgical neuromodulation devices) - No

If exact numbers are unavailable, proxy data is acceptable (e.g., the percentage of neuropathic pain patients receiving each treatment modality).

We cannot break this information down.

2. Service Provision

Does your Trust or provider offer specific or dedicated services for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN? - No

- If yes, please list each relevant service or site (e.g., pain clinic, neurology clinic, diabetic foot clinic, community pain service) along with their addresses.

For each listed site or service, please indicate:

- The types of healthcare professionals routinely involved (e.g., pain specialists, neurologists, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists)

- The number of staff per role (headcount or FTE if available)

Not applicable

3. Referral Pathways & Service Specifications

Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN? - No

- If yes, please supply relevant documents or summaries. – Not applicable

- If not, please clarify whether these conditions fall under broader chronic pain, MSK, diabetes, or oncology pathways. - Yes

4. Clinical Guidelines, Protocols, Strategic Plans

Has the Trust developed or contributed to any strategic plans, business cases, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN? - No

- If so, please provide relevant documents, including any timelines and associated funding information. – Not applicable

Are there any specific clinical guidelines, care pathways, or treatment protocols in use?

- No

For example:

- NICE CG173

- NEUPSIG

- Local pathways for diabetes- or oncology-related neuropathy

- If yes, please provide copies or summaries of key components.

5. Funding & Budgets

What was the total expenditure on neuropathic pain services in the most recent full financial year?

We cannot break this figure down; this is incorporated into the anaesthesia budget.

- If no specific figure is available, please provide overall pain management funding and any known distribution (e.g., primary/community vs secondary care).

- **Please indicate the type of funding, e.g. tariff or block contract-** Mix of tariff and block contract

6. Planned or Recent Service Changes

Are there any recent, ongoing, or planned changes to:

- **Commissioning arrangements**
- **Referral pathways**
- **Service structure**
- **Clinical treatment options for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?**

If yes, please provide details, including the relevant sites, timelines, and the rationale for these changes.

No

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