

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-695

8 September 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 hold some of the information you are requesting

I would like to know how many patients with a referral for suspected cancer are currently waiting for an appointment. If possible I would like this broken down into the type of cancer.

The table below shows the number of patients with an urgent suspected cancer referral from a GP received before 19/08 recorded on the cancer register by 28/08 who had not had a first appointment before 19/08, by suspected cancer type. Please note we do not provide diagnostic services for suspected brain, sarcoma, urology or breast cancer – these services are provided by North Bristol NHS Trust - Please contact FOIArequests@nbt.nhs.uk for further information.

Colorectal	200
Cancer of Unknown Primary	*
Gynaecology	137
Haematology	8
Head and neck	269
Lung	6
Non-site specific symptoms	*
Paediatrics	7
Skin	276
Upper GI	299

I would like to know the longest someone has currently been on the waiting list after being referred with a possible cancer diagnosis, and I would like to know the type of cancer they are suspected to have.

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

For people that have been diagnosed I would like to know the average wait time for treatment to begin. If possible I would like this broken down into a type of cancer. I would like this data for 2021/22, 2022/23, 23/24 and 25 years to date.

The table below shows average time in days from decision to treat to treatment for the years and cancer sites stated. The 2025 data is April-June 2025 (June being the most recent available reported month).

Cancer site	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Apr-Jun 25
Brain	11	10	13	12	12
Breast	16	16	16	16	15
Colorectal	16	15	15	16	16
CUP	*	*	*	*	*
Gynaecology	14	15	14	13	14
Haematology	8	9	9	9	7
Head and Neck	19	17	18	17	15
Lung	14	15	19	15	15
Other	25	*	35	18	25
Paediatric	*	*	*	*	*
Sarcoma	12	14	13	15	12
Skin	21	20	18	18	17
Upper GI	13	13	15	14	15
Urology	8	8	8	8	8

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.

For people who have had a cancer diagnosis I would like to know, currently, what is the longest someone has been waiting for treatment and the cancer they have been diagnosed with.

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

For the years 2021/22, 2022/23, 23/24 and 25 years to date I would like to know how many patients have passed away while waiting to start treatment for their cancer diagnosis.

We do not hold this 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