



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-817

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 14th March 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 28th February 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding jaw surgery.

On 28th February 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:

To continue with your request we require clarification what timeframe are you referring to , and Q2, what does this mean?

On the same day you replied via email with:

'On the foi website it states that foi must be answered within 30 days I wanted to give as much detail as possible so you can understand what exactly I'm referring to '

We responded via email with:

Thankyou for your email below, however you have not clarified our questions, and we can not answer this until you do.

- 1.how many patients are referred to every year - what year (s) are you referring to?
- 2.why us the waiting list time for you = what does this mean?

You replied via email with:

1. *the year is 2019 to 2024*
2. *How long is the waiting list once referred to you ? On average for patients who potentially need double jaw surgery*

You then sent in another email stating:

'How long will take to process my request?'

We replied via email with:

As per our acknowledgment – attached:

The FOI Act sets out a twenty working day timescale for requests to be completed by. We will always try to complete your request within this timeframe. We will let you know whether the Trust holds the information you have requested, and we will contact you as soon as possible if we are delayed in our

response for some reason. If we require further information from you or we need you to further explain your request before we can continue to process it we will also contact you.

Please note:

- The Freedom of Information Act does not provide access to personal records. This sits within Access to Medical Records. They can be contacted via Ministries Office Ministries.Office@nhs.net
- If we request any clarification from you to help us respond to your request, the 20 working day deadline freezes until the requested clarification has been received.
- If we suspect that the request has come from a Pseudonym (false name) we will request proof of identity before processing your request, as provision of a Pseudonym invalidates a request.

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from: (section 12 exemption)

- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

On 8th March 2024 we contacted you again via email with the following:
To continue with your request we require further clarification on the following:

Q1.how many patients are referred to every year.

Clarified: the year is 2019 to 2024

Referred to where? Our trust, to another trust? is this for all referrals or just specific specialties? The question is very vague.

Q2.why us the waiting list time for you

Clarified: How long is the waiting list once referred to you? On average for patients who potentially need double jaw surgery

However, can we clarify which point in the patient's pathway you are referring to here? Is this time or the numbers on the waiting list? Is it for an outpatient appointment or for inpatient treatment? Again, the question is very vague.

On the same day you replied via email with:

'Clarification: I'm talking about the time it takes to get referred and the amount of people on waiting list and yes, I'm talking about outpatients'

On 11th March 2024 we contacted you again via email with the following:

have been asked to contact you to seek clarification on your request. Note that we have tried several times to get clarification but your responses are too vague.

To continue with your request we require further clarification on the following:

Q1.how many patients are referred to every year

Clarified: the year is 2019 to 2024

Referred to where? Our trust, to another trust? is this for all referrals or just specific specialties?

The question is very vague

You replied 8/3/24 with : Referred to as double jaw surgery candidates- what does this mean, and as above (Referred to where? Our trust, to another trust?)

Q2.why us the waiting list time for you

Clarified: How long is the waiting list once referred to you ? On average for patients who potentially need double jaw surgery

However, Can we clarify which point in the patient's pathway you are referring to here? Is this time or the numbers on the waiting list? Is it for an outpatient appointment or for inpatient treatment? Again, the question is very vague

You replied 8/3/24 I'm talking about the time it takes to get reffered and the amount of people on waiting list and yes I'm talking about outpatients, do you mean from the GP

On 12th March you replied via email with:

Referred to where? Our trust, to another trust? is this for all referrals or just specific specialties? The question is very vague

Response : yes your trust as well guys and at Thomas trust I would like to how many double jaw surgery candidates are reffered to the department of jaw orthognathic surgery.

get reffered and the amount of people on waiting list and yes I'm talking about outpatients, do you mean from the GP: I'm talking about all referrals which included people reffered from gps and a general dentist

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 I have several question regarding double jaw surgery
How many patients are referred to every year.**

A1 See below;
We are unsure whether you meant for orthognathic surgery or assessment in orthodontics, therefore:

Between 1/1/2019 and 31/12/2023 a total of 237patients had orthognathic procedure at UHNM

Q2 Why us the waiting list time for you

A2 Again, your clarification was unclear, therefore:
For surgery Consultant 1 books straight from MDT clinic so minimal waiting time
For Consultant 2 assess the waiting time please based on management system

Q3 Do you carry out double jaw surgery along with genioplasty

A3 Yes if required

Q4 Most important one) do you carry double jaw surgery for patients that have corrected their bite through braces but still have cosmetic and health concerns ?

A4 No it is assessment on risk benefit via an MDT clinic using the orthognathic functional treatment need (IOTN)

Q5 On what basis can patients be referred to for double jaw surgery and genioplasty and how is it assessed.

A5 Patient dentist refer to orthodontics who assess and bring to a Joint clinic for MDT discussion if potential candidates for orthognathic need.

Patient with Obstructive sleep apnoea can be referred to orthognathic surgeon from internal respiratory team at UHNM with current sleep studies which are at a level for treatment as per index of orthognathic functional treatment need (IOTN)

All patients must fulfil IOFTN criteria for a moderate, great or 'very' treat need for treatment (index of orthognathic functional treatment need) and the risk/benefit analysis must indicate patient benefits.

The waiting time to start treatment process varies the longest current wait after being seen on a joint clinic is 15 months.

99% of referrals come through orthodontics. Who asses the patient collect records and bring to a multi consultant MDT criteria for treatment.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records