



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-418

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear Mr/Ms

I am writing in response to your email dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Breast Cancer.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 am undertaking work on behalf of Breast Cancer Now. They are keen to understand more about how Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) is being delivered at a Trust level, as it relates to breast cancer.**

**At the end of their hospital-based treatment, all primary breast cancer patients used to be offered - in addition to yearly mammograms for suitable patients - an annual clinical appointment for a period of five years, known as Routine Follow Up. In recent years, there has been a move away from Routine Follow Up and towards Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) at the end of hospital-based treatment. PSFU would give the option of Patient Initiated follow-up (PIFU) or Routine Follow Up- with both pathways continuing to offer annual mammograms for suitable patients. While the terms PSFU and PIFU are sometimes used interchangeably, for the questions below PSFU is being used to mean the overarching approach which encompasses the specific options of Routine Follow Up and PIFU. Note that sometimes other terms are used instead of PSFU or PIFU, e.g. supported self- management follow up, stratified follow up or open access follow up.**

**In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would appreciate it if you could respond to the below questions. *Please use an X in the boxes to indicate your answer when required or provide numerical data where requested. Note that some questions are open questions and some ask for copies of documents* The questions in this request all relate to the PSFU pathway for primary breast cancer patients.**

**Key Relevant Documents**

- 1. Does your Trust have a Standard Operating Procedure - also referred to as a PSFU Protocol - that covers the PSFU pathway for breast cancer?**

<b>Yes</b>	
<b>No</b>	
<b>Don't Know</b>	

**If yes, please share your current, or most recent, version of this Standard Operating Procedure/PSFU Protocol**

A1 See below:

Yes	Yes – SOP attached for the Self-managed (SMP) PSFU pathway for breast cancer which has been in place since 2019
No	
Don't Know	

**Q2 Are all hospitals that form part of your Trust following the processes set out in the Standard Operating Procedure/PFSU Protocol for breast cancer?**

Yes	
No	
Don't Know	

**If no, please send the breast cancer related Standard Operating Procedure/PFSU Protocol of each hospital in the Trust**

A2 Yes

**Q3 Information provided about breast cancer signs and symptoms**  
This section relates to the information given to women about signs and symptoms of primary breast cancer and signs and symptoms of secondary breast cancer.

**At the end of hospital-based treatment do you provide primary breast cancer patients with information about the signs and symptoms of primary breast cancer?**

Yes - for all patients	
Yes – but not consistently	
No	

**If yes- please provide a copy of the information provided or a link to the information if it is available online. If this information is part of a longer document please provide the full document.**

A3 Yes for all patients

**Q4 At the end of hospital-based treatment, do you provide primary breast cancer patients with information about the signs and symptoms of secondary breast cancer?**

Yes - for all patients	
Yes – but not consistently	
No	

**If yes- please provide a copy of the information provided or a link to the information if it is available online. If this information is part of a longer document please provide the full document.**

A4 Patients are given a full range of information pertinent to their type of cancer and treatment at diagnosis and will all receive an End of Treatment summary which will also list the signs and symptoms to be aware of.

Information included in attached information leaflet.

**Q5 Number of patients**  
How many patients did you treat for primary breast cancer that finished their hospital-based treatment in each of the Financial Years 2022-23 and 2023- 2024?

	Number of Patients
2022-2023	
2023-2024	

A5 See below:

	Number of Patients
2022-2023	574
2023-2024	567

**Q6 For each of the Financial Years 2022-23 and 2023-24, of the primary breast cancer patients that completed hospital-based treatment, please provide an estimate of what proportion were stratified to each follow up pathway?**

- a) A PIFU pathway
- b) A Routine Follow Up pathway

If you can provide the figures spilt between the age under 45 category and age 45 and over category that would be useful but if the information is not readily available by age, please provide for all ages combined.

	% of patients					
	2022-2023			2023-24		
	Under 45	45 and over	All ages	Under 45	45 and over	All ages
PIFU						
Routine Follow Up						

A6 See below:

	% of patients					
	2022-2023			2023-24		
	Under 45	45 and over	All ages	Under 45	45 and over	All ages
PIFU	25	303	328	27	329	356
Routine Follow Up	Whilst the number of those on Breast PSFU is known and provided above it is not possible to provide the number on routine follow up as there will be several people still on active treatment and a number who are deceased. This requires a case-by-case review, therefore Section 12 exemption applies: <i>cost of compliance excessive</i>					

**Q7** At the end of hospital-based treatment, is there a set period of time during which all patients in the Trust receive Routine Follow Up, with the decision between a Routine Follow Up pathway and a PIFU pathway being taken at a later date?

Yes- all patients receive routine follow up for a set period of time at the end of hospital- based treatment	
No- patients are immediately placed on Routine Follow Up or PIFU	

If yes, which hospitals offer this and for each hospital how long is the set period of time?

A7 No -patients are immediately placed on Routine Follow Up or PIFU

**Q8** Description of the pathway

We are hoping to understand in more detail how the breast cancer PIFU pathway works and how people are able to make contact when they have a concern. If you are providing a Standard Operating Procedure/PFSU Protocol as part of your response, you only need to respond to questions 8, 9, 10 and 11 if the answers to these questions are not fully available in the document.

If a patient wants to raise a concern about a breast cancer sign or symptom (either primary breast cancer or secondary breast cancer) while on a PIFU pathway, what are the options for them to do so (please tick all that apply):

A telephone service	
Email contact	
Drop in clinics	
Other- please detail	

A8 See below:

A telephone service	Yes Breast Care Nurse Advice Line
Email contact	
Drop in clinics	
Other- please detail	

**Q9** Monitoring of the pathway

Are all breast cancer patients on a PIFU pathway logged and tracked on the organisation's IT system?

All are logged	
All are logged and tracked	
Some are logged	
Some are logged and tracked	
No	

A9 See below:

All are logged	
All are logged and tracked	Yes using RMS (Remote Monitoring System from Somerset)
Some are logged	
Some are logged and tracked	
No	

Q10 Is there a standard time limit on how long PSFU pathways are available to breast cancer patients e.g. 5 years?

Yes	
No	

If yes, what is the standard time limit?

If yes, how frequently is the standard time limit applied?

Always	
Most of the time	
Sometimes	
Rarely	

If any patients have a difference to the standard time limit, please detail and explain in what circumstances this occurs and the range of time limits?

A10 See below:

Yes
-----

Always	Always
Most of the time	
Sometimes	
Rarely	

Q11 When it is time for a breast cancer patient to be discharged from PSFU, do they receive any notification of this, e.g. by letter or phone call?

Yes	
No	
Don't Know	

If yes, please explain how they receive this notification and provide a copy of the standardised information they would receive at that point, if it is in written form.

A11 See below:

Yes	Yes – see attached Virtual MDT SOP
No	

Don't Know	
------------	--

- Q12 We are keen to discuss in more detail the answers to this FOI with a small number of Trusts. If this is something you would consider, please let us know and we will follow up if needed.**
- Yes
  - No

**If yes, the person to contact is:**

A12 No

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

***UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

