



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-041

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 12th April 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Planned Care and Follow-up Appointments

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) 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 writing under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to request the following information:**

**1a. Does your organisation follow the guidance set out in Section 5 (Recording RTT waiting times: Planned patients) of NHS England’s ‘Recording and reporting referral to treatment (RTT) waiting times for consultant led elective care’?: “Planned care means an appointment /procedure or series of appointments/ procedures as part of an agreed programme of care which is required for clinical reasons to be carried out at a specific time or repeated at a specific frequency. Planned activity is also sometimes called ‘surveillance’, ‘re-do’ or ‘follow-up’.” ... “When patients on planned lists are clinically ready for their care to commence and reach the date for their planned appointment, they should either receive that appointment or be transferred to an active waiting list and a waiting time clock should start (and be reported in the relevant waiting time return). The key principle is that where patients’ treatment can be started immediately, then they should start treatment or be added to an active waiting list.”**

**1b. If so, do you follow the guidance with respect to the following types of planned patient (as defined in the guidance):**

- Follow-up outpatients
- Cancer surveillance patients
- Active monitoring patients

**1c. If so, at what point does your organisation place patients waiting for planned care (as defined in the guidance) on an active RTT waiting list? (e.g. the RTT clock starts as soon as a patient’s care becomes ‘overdue’, or after a defined time period or tolerance following a patient’s care becoming ‘overdue’?)**

**1d. If such patients are placed on an active RTT waiting list, do you report them on i) the Referral to Treatment statistics to NHS England which are published monthly as National Statistics, and/or ii) the Waiting List Minimum Data Set (WLMDS)?**

A1 See below:

1a – yes,. Overdue waiters are escalated to the clinical divisions for booking. Any patient who does not get a TCI within 6 weeks of their planned date is converted to an RTT pathway. Endoscopy backlogs are managed to Joint Advisory Group on GI standards.

1b – This is done for patients awaiting inpatient/day case procedures only.

1c – see above

1d – both

**Q2 2a. How many patients on your active RTT waiting list have been placed on this waiting list having been transferred from a planned care list (as defined in the guidance)? Please provide the most recent available figures and state the date of those figures.**

**2b. How long have these patients been on an active RTT waiting list?**

- i. 0-4 weeks (0-28 days)
- ii. >4 -12 weeks (29-84 days)
- iii. >12-18 weeks (85 days-126 days)
- iv. >18-36 weeks (127 days-252 days)
- v. >36-52 weeks (253 days-364 days)
- vi. >52-104 weeks (365 days – 728 days)
- vii. >104 weeks (729 days or more)
- viii. No date recorded.

**2c. How many of these patients are on an active RTT waiting list for the following RTT treatment functions?**

- i) General Surgery Service
- ii) Urology Service
- iii) Trauma and Orthopaedic Service
- iv) Ear Nose and Throat Service
- v) Ophthalmology Service
- vi) Oral Surgery Service
- vii) Neurosurgical Service
- viii) Plastic Surgery Service
- ix) Cardiothoracic Surgery Service
- x) General Internal Medicine Service
- xi) Gastroenterology Service
- xii) Cardiology Service
- xiii) Dermatology Service
- xiv) Respiratory Medicine Service
- xv) Neurology Service
- xvi) Rheumatology Service
- xvii) Elderly Medicine Service
- xviii) Gynaecology Service
- xix) Other - Medical Services
- xx) Other - Mental Health Services
- xxi) Other - Paediatric Services
- xxii) Other - Surgical Services

xxiii) Other - Other Services  
xxiv) Unknown

A2 We are unable to provide this data, as a pathway which is following a planned procedure overdue is indistinguishable from a normal RTT pathway at a reporting level. (The notes on the waiting list entry and pathway entry, detail that it is an overdue planned pathway).

**Q3 How many planned patients (as defined in the guidance), in each of the following categories, do not have a date that allows their overdue date to be calculated ( e.g. a due-by / latest clinically appropriate date):**

- Follow-up outpatients
- Cancer surveillance patients
- Active monitoring patients

A3 All open outpatient and inpatient waiting list entries have a planned admission/review date. This is a mandatory field on all entries.

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

Yours,



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