

**Reference Number:** FOI202223//579  
**From:** Other  
**Date:** 09 February 2023  
**Subject:** Paediatric waiting times

Could you please provide the following information relating to general anaesthesia (GA) paediatric dental waiting times for children under 18 in hospitals managed by your Trust.

Please note, the answers to all questions refer to Paediatric Dentistry as a whole, as the data sources that we use to answer questions relating to waiting lists don't specify the type of anaesthetic that is going to be used if the patient has Surgery.

**Q1** Total number of children currently on your waiting lists and for each of the past five years.

**A1**

	Inpatient	Outpatient
Jan-23	451	7922
Jan-22	450	7245
Jan-21	Information not held	Information not held
Jan-20	Information not held	Information not held
Jan-19	Information not held	Information not held
Jan-18	Information not held	Information not held

2018-2021: Information not held - we are unable to provide these figures as we were not taking snapshots of our complete waiting lists in sufficient detail that would enable us to identify a record as belonging to Dentistry until 2022.

**Q2** The average waiting time from referral to treatment by year for each of the past five years.

**A2**

	Inpatient	Outpatient
Jan-23	38	16
Jan-22	37	16
Jan-21	Information not held	Information not held
Jan-20	Information not held	Information not held
Jan-19	Information not held	Information not held
Jan-18	Information not held	Information not held

2018-2021: Information not held - we are unable to provide these figures as we were not taking snapshots of our complete waiting lists in sufficient detail that would enable us to identify a record as belonging to Dentistry until 2022.

**Q3** The total number of children currently on the waiting list who have waited more than  
a. six months  
b. one year  
c. 18 months

A3		Inpatient PTL	Outpatient PTL
	a. More than 6 months	109	519
	b. More than 12 months	160	75
	c. More than 18 months	11	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.

Q4 The five longest waits faced by people currently on the waiting list in days.

A4	Weeks	Procedure
	91	Restoration of part of tooth using filling
	81	Restoration Of Tooth
	80	Extraction Of Single Tooth
	79	Examination under Anaesthesia of Mouth
	79	Multiple Dental Extractions

Q5 The number of children (under 18s) who have a surgical procedure cancelled or delayed at your trust, in each of the past five calendar years (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018).

A5 Please see attached document: FOI 579 Response

Please note, the question does not provide specific details regarding if the request is referring to on-the-day or all cancellations, clinical or non-clinical cancellations, or referring to patient or hospital-initiated cancellations. Therefore, we have provided all timescales, and all reasons apart from procedures that are brought forward or no longer required.

The Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.

- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the “physical or mental health or condition” of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.

[illegible]