

Reference Number: FOI202223//604
From: Press/Media
Date: 21 February 2023
Subject: Reasons for patients leaving waiting lists

I would the following data broken down by month for between December 2018 to January 2023:

Q1 How many patients left the waiting list for whatever reason. Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list.

A1 Please see attached document: FOI 604 Response

Please note, we do not hold the information from 2018 – 2020 and can only provide data from 2021 onwards as the Trust underwent a Safe Waiting List Management Programme from 2020 concluding in November-21.

Q2 Of these, how many left the waiting list because they were admitted as an emergency and treated for the condition their referral related to during their emergency stay, therefore ending the treatment waiting pathway? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list.

A2 Information not held - we are unable to provide this information as the Trust underwent a Safe Waiting List Management Programme from 2020 concluding in November-21.

Q3 And of these (patients in question 1), how many left the waiting list because they died? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they were on more than one waiting list when they died.

A3 Please see attached document: FOI 604 Response.

Please note, we do not hold the information from 2018 – 2020 and can only provide data from 2021 onwards as the Trust underwent a Safe Waiting List Management Programme from 2020 concluding in November-21.

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.

FOI 604 Response

National Codes		34	30	35	36
Years	Clock Stop Date	Patient Discharged or Decision not to treat	Start of First Definitive Treatment	Patient declined offered treatment	Patient died before treatment
2021	Apr	1924	903	70	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	May	2056	900	44	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Jun	2276	1010	39	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Jul	2158	832	48	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Aug	1921	862	53	6
	Sep	2614	835	41	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Oct	2729	851	33	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Nov	3491	974	22	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Dec	1723	790	15	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
2022	Jan	2043	822	25	8
	Feb	2037	685	28	9
	Mar	2409	882	26	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Apr	2218	789	26	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	May	2892	1053	37	13
	Jun	2702	1040	29	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Jul	2940	1009	35	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
	Aug	2763	1165	26	6
	Sep	3019	1231	35	7
	Oct	2897	1327	50	7
	Nov	3247	1572	124	13
	Dec	2239	1119	22	11
2023	Jan	2807	1698	40	8
Grand Total		55105	22349	868	121

National Code 34 is used in 2 scenarios when a patient is discharged after treatment or a decision was made not to treat