

Information Governance

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16 April 2021

Our reference: FOI DA3769

I am responding to your request for information received 16 April 2021. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Keshia Harvey
Information Governance Manager

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention

Chair: Mark Lam

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus

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Request:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to request some information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please acknowledge receipt of my request by email.

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE USE THE SPREADSHEET ATTACHED TO PROVIDE THIS DATA or provide a new spreadsheet that is laid out in the same way for each question.

Each month, your trust submits RTT incomplete pathways data to NHS England. NHS England publish it as aggregate data, showing the numbers of incomplete pathways, broken down into weekly time bands: 0-1 weeks, >1-2 weeks, >2-3 weeks, >3-4 weeks, up to a final category 52+ weeks. The 52+ weeks category is not broken down in the published data. Examples of the published data are here, in the "Incomplete Provider" tables, "Provider" worksheet:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2020-21/>

Question 1. Please provide (on an all-specialties basis, for the end of February 2021) your aggregate 52+ weeks incomplete pathways RTT data, broken down into weekly time bands: >52-53 weeks, >53-54 weeks, >54-55 weeks, and so on, up to the weekly time band containing the longest-waiting patient.

The published RTT incomplete pathways data separately identifies patients with a decision to admit, again broken down into weekly time bands, in the "Provider with DTA" worksheet of the published spreadsheets referred to above. Trusts have in recent months coded these patients by clinical priority (P1-P6), based on the guide published by the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations (https://fssa.org.uk/covid-19_documents.aspx).

However the published RTT data is not broken down by clinical priority, nor do the time bands reflect the time since decision to admit.

The clinical priority categories are:

Priority 1 (operation needed within 72 hours)

Priority 2 (surgery which can be deferred for up to four weeks)

Priority 3 (surgery which can be delayed for up to three months)

Priority 4 (surgery which can be delayed for more than three months)

Priority 5 (patients who have requested to remain on the waiting list but to defer treatment because of their concerns about covid-19)

Priority 6 (Patients who have been offered treatment but have declined to accept for non-Covid reasons, but still wish to remain on the waiting list)

Or the patient may not have been assigned a priority.

Question 2. Please provide (on an all-specialties basis, for the end of February 2021) your aggregate waiting times for incomplete pathways with a decision to admit for treatment, broken down by

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priority code, and also broken down by the time waited since decision to admit (NOT the time since referral) in weekly time bands: 0-1 weeks, >1-2 weeks, >2-3 weeks, >3-4 weeks, and so on, up to the weekly time band containing the patient who has waited longest since decision to admit.

Trusts have also started coding patients who do not have a decision to admit, using the same clinical priority categories.

Question 3. Please provide (on an all-specialties basis, for the end of February 2021) your aggregate waiting times for incomplete pathways without a decision to admit for treatment, broken down by priority code, and also broken down by the time waited since referral in weekly time bands: 0-1 weeks, >1-2 weeks, >2-3 weeks, >3-4 weeks, and so on, up to the weekly time band containing the patient who has waited longest.

If data for the end of February 2021 is no longer available, then more recent data may be provided instead, in which case please advise the census date you have used.

Answer: The Trust has reviewed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the FOI Act states:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—

*(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is a mental health and community health trust and we do not believe this request relates to us.