

**Reference Number:** FOI202425/298  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 15 October 2024  
**Subject:** Waitlist Validation and Data Linkage

Q1 How is waitlist validation carried out in your Trusts? Please select one of the following options: Manually / Semi-automated / Automated.  
a. If your response was semi-automated or automated, which tools do you use? Please specify the types of tools or software used.

A1 Manually  
a. Not applicable

Q2 How many FTEs currently work on waitlist validation and what band are they? Please specify the number per band.

A2 3.0wte Band 4

Q3 How has your FTE count working on waitlist validation increased in the past 2-3 years? Please provide an estimate if you do not have the exact number.

A3 No changes in last 2-3 years.

Q4 In the past 12 months, approximately how long has the waitlist validation process taken? Please provide an estimate if you do not have the exact number.

A4 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. The validation team work exclusively on this. Operational Managers x 1wte time spent validating as well.

Please note the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) gives rights of public access to information held by public authorities.

This right covers all recorded information held by a public authority; public authorities only have to provide information they already have in recorded form, they do not have to create new information or provide estimated information.

Q5 What data quality issues have been identified the most frequently as part of the waitlist validation process? Please select those that apply from the list below:

- a. Decision to admit but no waiting list entry
- b. Missing waiting list or pathway information (e.g. due date, intended procedure)
- c. Patients on an admitted waiting list without an active RTT (Referral to Treatment Pathway) clock
- d. Past TCI (To Come In) dates
- e. Potential duplicates
- f. Other - please specify

A5 a. Yes, this has been identified.

- b. Yes, this has been identified.
- c. Yes, this has been identified.
- d. Yes, this has been identified.
- e. Yes, this has been identified.
- f. Incomplete Cashing Up

Q6 What are your current approaches to linking data? Please select one of the following options: Manually or semi-automated / Automated

A6 Semi-automated

Q7 What is the proportion of data linkage that is manual and automated? Please provide an estimate if you do not have the exact number.

- a. If automated, what tools are used? Please provide the name of the tools.
- b. If manual, what tools are used e.g. R, data bricks? Please provide the name of the tools.

A7 40%  
a. SQL Server  
b. Excel

Q8 Currently, is the data linking process cumbersome? Please select one option: Yes/No

A8 Yes

Q9 And does it take away from people's everyday role? Please select one option: Yes/No

A9 Yes