

Reference Number: FOI202526/001
From: Commercial
Date: 01 April 2025
Subject: Number of days for patients referred on an urgent basis to LHCH from external hospitals

- Q1 I am seeking clarification of how many days it was taking for patients referred on an urgent but not emergency basis to LHCH from external hospitals with the following presentation:
- Locally uncontrolled infection (abscess false aneurysm fistula enlarging vegetation)
 - Aortic or mitral NVE with vegetations > 10mm, associated with severe valve stenosis or regurgitation, and low root of risk.
 - Aortic or mitral NVE or PVE with isolated very large vegetations (>30mm)
- A1 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to ascertain the data, the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.
- Q2 How many days after the referral was received were patients receiving surgery for the following referral dates:
- 2nd June 2020
4th June 2020
- A2 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to ascertain the data, the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.
- Q3 Please could you break this down further if possible to those who were referred on those dates by Arrowe Park Hospital, as I am unsure if their location being so close makes a difference in turnaround times.
- A3
- 02/06/2020 - Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
 - 04/06/2020 - Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
- Q4 Whether any patients were referred from an external hospital on 2nd June 2020 with all of the highlighted criteria on an urgent but not emergency basis
If so, on what dates did the surgeries take place
And the same 2 questions for 4th June 2020 please
- A4 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to ascertain the data,

the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.

- Q5 If no patients were referred with all of the specific criteria below;
Whether any patients were referred from an external hospital on 2nd June 2020 with any match on the highlighted criteria on an urgent but not emergency basis
If so, on what dates did the surgeries take place
And the same 2 questions for 4th June 2020 please
- A5 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to ascertain the data, the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.
- Q6 If no patients were referred with any of the specific criteria matches;
Whether any patients were referred from an external hospital on 2nd June 2020 with infective endocarditis on an urgent but not emergency basis
If so, on what date did the surgeries take place
And the same questions for 4th June please
- A6 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to ascertain the data, the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.

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.