

Ref: FOI/2022/8564

Date Received: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022

Response Due: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

**Please disclose:**

**1. When did your post COVID (long COVID) assessment service become operational?**

WWL Long COVID services developed over time in response to escalating demand from both patients and WWL's own staff. A brief overview of the service development is provided below:

- WWL staff had direct access to respiratory / rehabilitation consultants from March 2020 onwards
- The first patients attended clinic with loss of smell symptoms linked to Long COVID in June 2020.
- WWL implemented a direct Primary Care referral for Long COVID in March 2021

**2. A copy of the operational policy for your post COVID (long COVID) assessment service.**

The Trust does not have a single operational policy for Long COVID assessment service as the service is spread across a number of specialties and clinics, based on the symptoms of the patient, i.e single organ referrals (respiratory, cardiology, ENT, gastroenterology) or multi-disciplinary / chronic fatigue.

**3. The titles of the rows and columns of your central database/ spreadsheet on the referrals received, patients seen and outcomes of assessments**

The headers of the Data Warehouse are provided below.

Row Number
Referral Date
Snapshot Date
Appointment Type
Day's Wait

Date_On_Letter
Referral_removed_Date
Date_to_be_seen_by
dw_create_date_dt
Original_Referral_Date
target_wait_group_code
wl_type
referral_type
clock_start_date
WaitGroup
SpecialtyCode
SpecialtyDescription
division
directorate
clinician_name
ConsultantCode
DistrictNumber
first_name
last_name
nhs_number
date_of_birth_dt
CensusDate
SourceOfReferral
PCT
Category
Date_On_List
Internal_WL_Date
TreatmentCode
appointment_booked_date
appointment_date
Referral_Source_Code
remarks
wl_description
appointment_type
ApptClass
waiting_list_serial
clinic_code
Required_Date_Year
Required_Date_Month
required_date_is_passed_flag
referral_serial

priority_description
appointment_status_description
consultant_local_code
sex_description
age
admin_cat_national_code
pk_outpatient_wl
pct_name
apt_type_class
proca_refno_consultant
name_of_service
site_code
service_type
purchaser_code
purchaser_name
wl_category
service_delivery_footprint

**4. What information do you hold on the occupations of people referred with post COVID (long COVID) syndrome?**

We do not routinely receive information on the occupation of the person being referred into the Long COVID services with the referral. However, on occasion the patient's occupation may be recorded following a clinic attendance if it is contextually relevant / pertinent to the treatment provided.

**5. Do you record how many of the people referred are current or former NHS workers?**

We do not routinely record whether the person referred is a current or former NHS worker.

**6. What data do you submit to NHS England and or other central bodies about the work of your service and the characteristics of the patients who you treat?**

We submit a bi-weekly submission on Long COVID referral and activity numbers

**7. To where are patients referred if assessment concludes that they need rehabilitation for post COVID (long COVID) syndrome?**

The Trust provides a rehabilitation service for patients with rehabilitative Long COVID needs.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

Desai P.D.

Paritosh Desai  
Director of Operations & Performance – Division of Medicine

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111