

Ref: FOI/2023/8951

Date Received: 5th June 2023

Response Due: 3rd July 2023

Date: 23rd June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your Trust. Please may you provide me with an answer to the following:

Please detail the number of referrals to cataract clinics at your Trust in each of the following years:

- a. 23/24 (YTD)
- b. 22/23
- c. 21/22

Please could the above be split by referrer/referral source (i.e. by GP practice, optometric practice etc)

Source of referral	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Accident And Emergency	<5	0	<5	<5
Age Related Macular De-Gen	66	109	62	237
Community Specialist Team	<5	0	0	<5
Consultant - External	14	10	5	29
Consultant - Internal	169	294	150	613
Diab Retinopathy Service	<5	9	<5	15
Occupational Health	0	<5	0	<5
Optometrist Referral	15	18	9	42
Orthoptist	<5	<5	<5	9
Other Health Professionals	5	8	<5	14
Patient's Own GP	425	531	254	1210
Ref By Same Cons Fu	<5	0	0	<5

Specialist Nurse	<5	0	0	<5
Ward Discharge	0	0	<5	<5
Grand Total	707	984	489	2180

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and

Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

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 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

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