

MRI scanners & failed/DNA.

Reference Number: RDF2435-24

Date of Response: 18/04/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please can you provide responses to the following questions in regard to your MRI systems used within the Trust.

In regard to the date/time ranges for our request, please see as follows: -

- March 2019 to March 2020, January 2022 - March 2024*

- How many MRI Scanners do you currently have in the trust/health board?*

Northern Service: One scanner.

- Eastern Service: 2 MRI scanners at the main site plus: 1 facility shared with the University of Exeter, 1 scanner at the CDC.

We also have 2 managed service mobile units.

- How many MRI scans are requested each year?*

Northern Service:

	March 2019 to March 2020	January 2022 to March 2024
MRI Northern	8012	21331
MRI Eastern	28621	64686 including Cardiac

Eastern service:

March 2019 - March 2020	23005
2022	22188
2023	25553
2024 (Up until end of Mar 24)	6826

- How many MRI scans are done in a year.*

Northern Service:

	March 2019 to March 2020	January 2022 to March 2024
MRI Northern	7343	18273
MRI Southern	23668	51520

Eastern Service

March 2019 - March 2020	20898
2022	20554
2023	21985
2024 (Up until end of Mar 24)	5811

4. *Which make and model of MRI Scanner do you have installed across the trust/health board?*

The Trust can confirm that it holds information that you have requested. This information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because it is reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/media/44nhjiti/foi-rdf2246-24-mri-imaging-scans-2023-mobile-units-total-machines.pdf>

5. *What is your 'Do not attend' rate?*

Northern answer:

	March 2019 to March 2020	January 2022 to March 2024
DNA Rate (Q5)	3.75%	2.76%

Eastern Answer

March 2019 - March 2020	5.27%
2022	2.31%
2023	3.19%
2024 (Up until end of Mar 24)	2.93%

6. *What is your failed MRI scan rate i.e., scan abandoned midway during an investigation?*

Northern Service:

	March 2019 to March 2020	January 2022 to March 2024
Scan Abandoned Rate (Q6)	0.08%	0.19%

Eastern Service:

March 2019 - March 2020	0.02%
2022	0.05%
2023	0.01%
2024 (Up until end of Mar 24)	0.00%

7. *What percentage of your failed and DNA rates are due to claustrophobia.*

Difficult to give figure as failed/DNA reasons not always given. See Section 40 exemption in question 8. Radiology has no access to patients referred to open scanners.

8. *What is the number of patients per month referred to an open MRI scanner?*

Trust response: Unable to give answer as Radiology have no access to patients referred to open scanners.

Section 40 (2)

The only data that is held is part of a patient's medical record held within the Electronic Patient Record (EPR). This data it would not be appropriate to release under FOI as it is personal data and would not be lawful or transparent to patients to view their records for this purpose. As such it is exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOI Function as it is in breach of Principle 1 of the UK GDPR

9. *The cost per patient to refer to an open MRI scanner (tariff you're charged).*

Trust answer:

Section 43 (2) - Commercial Interests

The Trust holds this information.

This information is commercially sensitive, and its release would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust.

In applying the exemption under Section 43(2) the Freedom of Information Act the Trust has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The Trust has considered all the relevant factors in the public interest test and concluded that the benefit to the public in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in releasing the information requested as a result of the prejudices and losses that would potentially affect the Trust and patients. As such this information is being withheld under Section 43 (2).

Public Interest Test (PIT) - Non- Disclosure: -

Excluded under Section 43 because releasing the costs of contracts would give potential suppliers an unfair advantage over other bidders when bidding for future work. That advantage would contravene the principle of fairness required from the Trust in Regulation 18 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The release of contract values would undermine the Trust's suppliers' competitiveness in the market and breach the Trust's contracts with suppliers, which typically require contract values to be kept confidential.

Public Interest Test (PIT) – For Disclosure

The Trust understand the need for openness and accountability for tender processes and price, and it recognises the need for value of money.

10 *What was the cited reason as to why the patient was referred to an open scanner?* Unable to give answer as Radiology have no access to patients referred to open scanners. See Section 40 exemption in question 8.

11. *What is your Projected MRI demand within the trust/health board (% increase)?* 2.8% increase Trust wide. This is based on outpatient MRI demand only.