

Our Ref: 520/2021
May 2021

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Freedom of Information Request Cataract Surgery (RP5)

Dear Madam or Sir,

I hope you are well in current times.

My name is Benedikt Bauer and I am an MPhil student at the Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge. Currently, I am writing my dissertation in collaboration with Addenbrooke's hospital Cambridge on pooling cataract surgery capacity. Although this is mainly a theoretical exercise, it is aimed to include most accurate data from hospitals and trusts DONCASTER AND BASSETLAW HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST. Hence, I am requesting the following information. Please split the answers by eye clinic/ hospital/ facility under your trust.

1. Number of yearly cataract surgery procedures between 2016-2019.

| Year | No of Procedures |
|-------------|------------------|
| 2016 | 7488 |
| 2017 | 9216 |
| 2018 | 7270 |
| 2019 | 7269 |
| Grand Total | 31243 |

2. How many cataract surgery lists with how many patients on them are usually run per week or per month? (excluding pandemic times)

We used to have 17 lists per week and if 30 min straight forward patients then 7 max per list. However time allocation varied per complexity

3. On which days of the week are the lists usually run? (excluding pandemic times)

We have 3 sites and have a list on each day somewhere in the trust.

4. Is there a difference made between patients that require an experienced surgeon and patients that may also be treated by less-experienced surgeons i.e., Junior Doctors?

Yes complex cases are for experienced consultants to do

5. If 4 is a yes, for which of the cataract surgery lists (question 3) are either experienced and less-experienced or only less-experienced surgeon available? (excluding pandemic times)

Sessions varied and dependent on consultant /sub-speciality

6. How and by which criteria are cataract surgery patients prioritized? (Before, during and foreseeably after the pandemic)

We have scoring system that takes into account the complexity of patient's eye as well as other factors like positioning

7. How many patients were on the cataract surgery waiting list between 2016-2019 per year?

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| Year | No of Patients |
|-------------|----------------|
| 2016 | 4267 |
| 2017 | 2992 |
| 2018 | 3163 |
| 2019 | 2404 |
| Grand Total | 12826 |

8. How many patients were on average referred to your trust to receive cataract surgery per month between 2016 and 2019?

Monthly Averages:

2016: 308

2017: 250

2018: 264

2019: 201

9. Which characteristics (age, comorbidities, priorities etc.) did the patients have that were referred to your trust per month between 2016 and 2019?

To do this we would need to interrogate individual patient records which would exceed the time limit for a Freedom of Information Request.

Thank you very much.
With kind regards,

Benedikt Bauer