

Our Ref: 113
February 2024

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

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, the number of patients who have become blind or partially blind, whilst waiting for treatment on an ophthalmology RTT pathway at your trust in each of the last 3 full financial years.

We do not currently have a single document or file containing the specific data that you have requested, and our current systems are unable to provide a breakdown of data in the exact manner sought. Trust would only be able to provide you with the information you requested by examining every individual report and patient record. We have estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to carry out a manual search to locate, retrieve, and extract all the information you have requested. In this situation the associated cost would therefore exceed the appropriate fee limit of £450 set out under Freedom of Information & Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007.

The fee limit specified in regulations for NHS trusts represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days at a rate of £25 per hour determining whether the Trust holds the information sought and then locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

Having regard to section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act in circumstances where the fee limit is likely to be exceeded the Trust is not obliged to respond to the request.