

Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following data:

- The number of oral cancer referrals received by hospitals in your Trust between January 2017 and the most recent completed month that is available (most likely June 2024). I also request this data be presented as monthly figures.

Data tables example:

I am writing to confirm that DBTH holds some of the information on the subject you have requested. However, I advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to [locate, retrieve, extract] information in scope of your request would involve extensive administrative work, our database used by Dentist may have only had access to this system for maybe a year - so all referrals would be by paper from that referral source. Over the last few years due to Medical staffing levels (for the majority of these referrals they are seen by a Tertiary Centre Consultant at DBTH) when we have capacity problems the referrals have been sent over directly to Charles Clifford Hospital – so it is likely that we will have months where it looks we have had no referrals which would not provide a true number.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. 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.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

Our Ref: 456
July 2024

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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2017												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals.												

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2018												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

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Number of oral cancer referrals.												
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2019												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals.												

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2020												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals.												

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2021												
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	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals.												

2022												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August				
Number of oral cancer referrals.												

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2023												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals.												

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2024												
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Our Ref: 456
July 2024

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals.							x	x	x	x	x	x