

## **Freedom of Information Act Request**

I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding waiting times for hand and wrist surgery at your trust. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. The total number of patients currently on the waiting list for hand and wrist surgery at your Trust.
2. The number of patients currently on the waiting list for hand and wrist surgery at your trust broken down by procedure name and procedure code (OPCS-4) - if available
3. The current average waiting time for a new NHS outpatient appointment with a hand surgeon.
4. The current average waiting time for a patient to undergo hand or wrist surgery after being listed for treatment.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to comply with your request as the cost of determining whether the requested information is held, locating, retrieving, and extracting it would exceed the appropriate limit set by the Act. This is currently £450 for NHS Trusts, which equates to 18 hours of staff time at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

Providing the requested breakdown of hand and wrist surgery waiting lists would require a manual review of each procedure code to determine its relevance, and some codes do not specify the procedure site, necessitating an individual examination of patient records. This would exceed the cost and time threshold permitted under Section 12.

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](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net).

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

Our Ref: 210

March 2025

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

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

If possible, please provide the most recent data available and specify the date to which the figures apply. If any part of my request exceeds the cost limit under the Act, I would appreciate any partial data that can be provided within the limit.