

Our Ref: 275  
April 2025

### **Freedom of Information Act Request**

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

I was wanting to know what the current waiting time is for:

First pre-operative (out-patients) cataract assessment from receiving a referral?

Suppose surgery is indicated, and is required under general anaesthesia or sedation. What is the time from the time of the above first assessment to having surgery under general anaesthesia or sedation? (Please note this is NOT local anaesthesia.)

In relation to the first part of your question, we are unable to provide the information requested. This is because the intended procedure for a patient—specifically whether surgery will be under general anaesthesia, sedation, or local anaesthesia—is not known or recorded at the point of referral. Therefore, we cannot accurately calculate or provide the time from referral to the first pre-operative cataract assessment specifically for those who go on to require general anaesthesia or sedation.

As this information is not held in a way that allows us to identify and extract the relevant data, we are refusing this part of the request under **Section 1(1)(a)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is not held.

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  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>