Our Ref:105

May 2026

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. In the Trust, how many people were removed from the waiting lists without treatment in last 6 months.
2. In the Trust, how many people were removed from the waiting lists without treatment in last 6 months broken down by:

a. how many died.
b. how many failed to respond to contact.
c. how many did not need appointments.
d. how many missed a single appointment.
e. how many were reinstated after contacting the Trust to say they had not been aware of their appointment.

Response:
The latest published Referral to Treatment (RTT) Data is March 2026, therefore the information below relates to 01/10/2025 to 31/03/2026.
1. In the above time period 43045 patients were removed from the RTT waiting list without treatment.
2 a. 488 of the removals were due to patients having died.
2 b, c, d, e
The Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format.

To identify:

- the number of patients removed from the waiting list who failed to respond to contact;
- the number who did not need appointments;
- the number who missed a single appointment; and
- the number who were subsequently reinstated after contacting the Trust to advise they were unaware of their appointment,

would require the Trust to manually review a large number of individual patient records and waiting list removals during the period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The reasons for removal and any subsequent reinstatement are not recorded in a centrally searchable format that would enable the requested information to be extracted through routine reporting. In order to provide the information, the Trust would be required to locate, retrieve and examine thousands of individual records to determine the circumstances of each removal.

The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this part of the request would exceed the appropriate limit set out in Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The appropriate limit for NHS organisations is £450, equivalent to 18 hours of work at the statutory rate of £25 per hour.

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Accordingly, the Trust is refusing Questions 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For context, where patients are removed from the Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting list without treatment, this may include reasons such as patients declining treatment, clinical decisions not to treat, active monitoring, or other administrative and clinical outcomes. However, the specific categories requested are not recorded in a way that would permit extraction within the appropriate limit.

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.

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/