

Freedom of Information Office
Press and Communications
Seventh Floor, Salton House
St Mary's Hospital
South Wharf Road
London W2 1NY
020 3312 5585
imperial.foi@nhs.net

1 August 2019

Our ref: FOI-444-2019

Dear George Donald

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request.

I have carefully reviewed your request and investigated whether there is any information available for disclosure to you. Please find below the Trust's response:

In the 'NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2019/20' there is a new requirement on NHS Trusts and CCGs as follows:

"Patients will continue to have choice at the point of referral and for 2019/20 new local arrangements must be put in place so that anyone who has been waiting for six months or longer must be specifically contacted by the provider on whose waiting list they appear or by the responsible CCG and given the option of faster treatment at an alternative provider."

Please provide the following information:

1 - Is this new requirement included in your patient access policy? Please provide a copy of your current patient access policy.

Our patient access policy highlights the new 26-week patient choice standard as part of the proposed new elective access standards that have been recommended by the national review (the 26-week patient choice standard is one of the supporting measures).

NHS England and NHS Improvement are field-testing variants of the main RTT waiting time measure. The [NHS Medical Director's interim report on the review of the access standards](#), published 11 March 2019, set out timelines with testing during the first half of 2019/20 and final recommendations expected in spring 2020.

We make clear in the current version of our access policy that should the proposed standards be rolled out earlier we will make an in-year update to reflect outcomes of the national review.

Please find attached our current access policy; reference to the new 26-week patient choice standard is made on page 4.

2 - Do you record compliance against this new requirement?

Please see response to question 1.

3 - How many patients have been offered faster treatment at an alternative provider in the three months of 2019/20 Quarter 1?

Please see response to question 1.

4 - How many patients have accepted a transfer to an alternative provider in the three months of 2019/20 Quarter 1?

Please see response to question 1.

5 - What action are you taking to deal with the backlog of referrals over 26 weeks?

Please see response to question 1.

I trust that this deals with your enquiry to your satisfaction, but if you feel that Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has misunderstood or not responded appropriately to your request, you have two courses of action:

- You can clarify the terms of your original request to allow this to be looked at again (if you expand your request this will be dealt with as a new request)
- All applicants have the right of appeal. An appeal should be focused on the original request and should identify how the Trust's response failed to answer your information request. Appeals must be made in writing to the FOI Manager at the address above.

After the Trust's internal appeals procedure has been exhausted, a further appeal about the same information request can be directed to the Information Commissioner for adjudication. Appeals to the Information Commissioner should be sent for review to the following address:

The Information Commissioner,
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
Wilmslow Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
Facsimile: 01625 545510
E-mail: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note:

If you are considering re-using the information disclosed to you through this request, for any purpose outside of what could be considered for personal use, you are required under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 to make an application for re-use to the organisation you have requested the information from. Applications for re-use should be directed to the Trust through the FOI manager.

Please contact me again, quoting your reference number, if you require any further assistance with your current request and I will do my best to provide the relevant help and advice.

Yours sincerely

Barney Langrish
Freedom of Information manager