



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_68_26

You asked:

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

This request relates to local NHS service pressures associated with obesity and obesity-related illness. We are seeking comparable data across NHS Trusts on both access/waiting times and hospital demand.

Please provide the following information for your Trust, covering the last five financial years (2020/21 - 2024/25)

1. Waiting Times and Access Indicators (Local Service Strain)

For each year listed above, please provide:

a) Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) elective waiting-time indicators, if held:

- Median RTT waiting time (in weeks)

Financial Year	Median Weeks
2020/2021	62
2021/2022	49
2022/2023	43
2023/2024	35
2024/2025	36

- Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end)

Financial Year	Count >18
2020/2021	12737
2021/2022	12736
2022/2023	12665
2023/2024	11393
2024/2025	12777

- Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end)

Financial Year	Count >52
2020/2021	10113
2021/2022	8329
2022/2023	7773
2023/2024	5794
2024/2025	6588

Unfortunately, we do not hold waiting-time indicators.

Please note figures are at financial year end dates. A patient may appear in more than one financial year. A patient could be waiting for more than one speciality

and will be counted for each specialty. We have only counted RTT included specialties used for reporting metrics.

b) The median waiting time for outpatient appointments in the following specialities:

- Endocrinology / Diabetes
- Cardiology
- Orthopaedics

Financial Year	Specialty	Median Weeks
2020/2021	Cardiology	26
2020/2021	Endocrinology / Diabetes	16
2020/2021	Orthopaedics	30
2021/2022	Cardiology	18
2021/2022	Endocrinology / Diabetes	9
2021/2022	Orthopaedics	25
2022/2023	Cardiology	12
2022/2023	Endocrinology / Diabetes	10
2022/2023	Orthopaedics	24
2023/2024	Cardiology	20
2023/2024	Endocrinology / Diabetes	12
2023/2024	Orthopaedics	24
2024/2025	Cardiology	17
2024/2025	Endocrinology / Diabetes	13
2024/2025	Orthopaedics	28

Please note figures are at financial year end dates. A patient may appear in more than one financial year. A patient could be waiting for more than one specialty and will be counted for each specialty. We have only counted RTT included specialties used for reporting metrics.

2. Obesity-Related Hospital Admissions and Demand

For each year listed above, please provide:

a) The total number of inpatient admissions where obesity was recorded as:

- A primary diagnosis (ICD-10 code E66), and/or
- A secondary diagnosis

Financial Year	Count
2020/2021	77
2021/2022	133
2022/2023	145
2023/2024	140
2024/2025	117

Please note a patient can be admitted more than once.

b) The total number of admissions for the following obesity-related conditions (where obesity is a major risk factor), if available:

- Type 2 diabetes (E11)
- Coronary heart disease / myocardial infarction (I20–I25)
- Stroke (I60–I69)

We do not code obesity as a major risk factor. Therefore, we are unable to provide.

c) If held, the total number of admissions specifically linked to bariatric surgery or specialist weight-management intervention.

We can only confirm the number of patients that were admitted with complications for bariatric surgery.

However, to release the specific information in the way that you have requested (by year) would mean disclosure of low numbers.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain.

In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, we can confirm that a total of 7 patients were admitted for the time period 2020/2025.