

File reference	W17FOI269
Key words	Patients sent to private facilities
Date of release	24/05/2017
Attachments	Yes L3

Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

You originally asked

Given the substantial impact of waiting times on patient welfare, and the implications of budget concerns for the future health of the NHS, I believe this request to be firmly in the public interest.

Could I please be provided with the following data:

1. A database (in Excel-readable format) of all cases in which patients were sent to private healthcare facilities from NHS facilities covered by this FOI address from 1/1/2014 until 1/5/2017. This should include:
 - a. Incident or record number as per your own system
 - b. The date of the referral
 - c. The department from which the patient was referred
 - d. The facility to which the patient was referred
 - e. The reason or explanation given for the referral
 - f. If possible, I would appreciate the data in this form:

Date	Department	Facility referred to	Reason given

I would be interested in any information held by your department regarding my request, including any datasets from which this information is drawn.

Following a request for clarification, you revised your question and it now states:

The question I'm looking to answer is: how many times have hospitals within the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust sent patients to private facilities in order to save on waiting times, and how much has that cost. Please interpret my request in any such way as will allow you to answer that question.

Our reply to your revised question only

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it holds the information requested and is supplying it in accordance with section 1(b) unless otherwise specified.

Please find the answers to your questions noting that we have redacted the data set where numbers are five or fewer. This avoids a breach of the first two Data Protection Act principles. This is in accordance with section 40.-(2)(a) and (b) by virtue of section 40.-(3)(a)(i), the personal information exemption as described in the Freedom of Information Act. A detailed rationale is provided in the attached document L3.

Please find the costs for outsourced patient care in each financial year. Taken from reference cost submission data

Patients were outsourced to provide additional capacity to assist with meeting waiting times

Year	Admitted		Outpatient		Total	
	Patients	Cost	Patients	Cost	Patients	Cost
2013-14	258	369,021	70	30,886	328	399,906
2014-15	1,270	1,762,846	8	736	1,278	1,763,582
2015-16	1,219	3,648,969	Five or fewer	229	1,221	3,649,198

Attachments included: Yes L3