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9th September 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: IBS
information 2019 - 2024

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

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FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. Patient Referrals a) The number of patients diagnosed with IBS who have been referred to gastroenterology services in each of the past five years. b) The number of patients diagnosed with IBS who have been referred to dietetic services in each of the past five years. c) What criteria are used to determine whether an IBS patient is referred to gastroenterology vs dietetics?	a) Information not yet provided. 1b) 2023/24: 34 2024/25: 80 2025/26: 50 (from April onwards) 1c) Dietetic referrals are accepted for patients under the active care of a Trust consultant. Referrals are typically made by a gastroenterology consultant; no additional referral criteria apply.			
2. Workforce a) The number of dietitians currently employed by the Trust who are trained or specialised in gut health, IBS, or gastrointestinal disorders.	a) One.			
3. Waiting Times and Waiting List Size a) The current average waiting time for a gastroenterology appointment, and the number of IBS patients currently on the gastroenterology waiting list and for how long. b) The current average waiting time for a dietitian appointment, and the number of IBS patients	a) The Trust does not hold this information. b) The current average waiting time is 19 weeks.			

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currently on the dietetic waiting list and for how long.				
4. Service Capacity and Referral Pathways a) If the Trust is unable to offer appointments to all patients with IBS who are referred to gastroenterology or dietetic services, please describe the process followed. b) Where are these patients directed or signposted to (e.g., community services, external providers, self-management resources)?	a) The Trust's dietetic service sees patients who are under the active care of a Trust consultant. Referrals made directly by a GP are declined and redirected to the community service. b) Patients whom the Trust cannot see are redirected to the community service.			
5. Service provision: a) Does the Trust offer any specialist IBS clinics or multidisciplinary clinics? b) What patient education or self-management resources are provided for IBS? c) Does the Trust outsource IBS-related dietetic or gastroenterology care to private or third-party providers? If so, to which providers and how many patients in each of the last five years?	a) No. b) The Trust does not hold this information. c) No.			
6. Follow-up and discharge policy: a) What is the Trust's policy for follow-up appointments for IBS patients? b) Under what circumstances are IBS patients discharged back to GP care?	a) The Trust does not hold this information. b) Information not yet provided.			

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Patient Experience Team
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a smoke-free site

Trust Chair Rukshana Kapasi OBE
Chief Executive Jon Melbourne

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.