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23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

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Join today: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference:**  
Reproductive Medicine/ Sub-fertility clinic

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.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1) Does your Hospital/Trust run a reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic (defined as a gynaecology clinic specifically for those looking to conceive or that may be impacted by infertility)	Yes.			
2) If no to question 1: How are referrals for infertility treated at your Hospital/Trust e.g referred to general gynaecology clinic, rejected, referred to an alternative provider	N/A			
3) If yes to question 1: How many patients have been seen in this clinic for the last 3 years (please complete table below)	Approx. New - 450 FUP - 284			
4) If yes to question 1: How many patients have been on the waiting list for the last 3 years for New and Follow up consultations in the	We are unable to split fertility referrals from General Gynae patients to provide the number on the waiting list			

reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic?(please complete table below)				
5) If yes to question 1: How many patients are currently on the New Consultation waiting list for a reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic?	82 patients awaiting a new appointment			
6) If yes to question 1: How many patients are currently on the Follow Up Consultation waiting list for a reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic?	We are unable to provide this information within individually checking patient details.	Yes	Section 12	<p>Section 12 of the Act allows the Trust to refuse to deal with any requests where we estimate that responding to the request would exceed the cost limit. We have identified that question 6 will exceed the cost limit. For public authorities the cost limit is £450 (18 hours). If responding to one part of a request would exceed the cost limit, we do not have to provide a response to any other parts of the request. Due to the delay we have provided responses for the other questions.</p> <p>Therefore, the estimated cost of processing your request is £1,460.25. This charge has been calculated in accordance with section 13 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Fees Regulations.</p> <p>In order to locate this information, we would need to review individual patient records. We have</p>

				<p>estimated that we can locate and review 8 patient records per hour. We estimate that the cost of satisfying your request will be £1,406.25 (56.25 hours x £25 per hour).</p> <p>Under section 16 of the Act we are obliged to advise you to refine your request to narrow the scope in order to bring it within the appropriate limit. Can we suggest that the timescales for question 6 is reduced, for example, to a calendar month. If the timescales are reduced to a month, the Trust will be able to respond to all of your questions. If you are unable to reduce the scope of the request the Trust will be unable to continue processing your request until the fee is paid. If you wish to proceed with this request the fee will need to be paid within three calendar months. If the fee is not received by this date, I shall take it that you do not wish to pursue this request and will consider the request closed.</p>
7) If yes to question 1: What has been the average weeks wait for New and Follow Up consultations in the reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic for the last 3 years? (please complete table below)	We are unable to split fertility from General Gynae for past information.			

8) If yes to question 1: What is the current average weeks wait for New and Follow Up consultations in the reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic	Approx 18 weeks wait for a New appointment. Follow up wait would be determined by the consultant			
9) If yes to question 1: What is the longest wait time currently for a New and Follow Up consultations in the reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic	18 weeks for a new appointment. Follow up should be within time scale of the patient's decision.			
10) If yes to question 1: How many patients have been seen for a New or Follow Up consultation in the reproductive medicine or sub-fertility clinic in the last 3 years? (please complete table below)	Due to clinic changes and restructures we can't accurately break down year by year Approx. New - 450 FUP - 284			
11) If yes to questions 1: What are the names of the doctors providing this service		Yes	ABSOLUTE EXEMPTIONS REFUSAL NOTICE - Section 40(2) staff personal information	The exemption applied is Section 40 Personal Information.  This exemption applies because disclosure of this information has a potential to make individuals identifiable due to the description/set of characteristics within the small statistical data set

				<p>involved, thereby breaching the Data Protection Act 2018.</p> <p>Names, job titles (other than that of our board of directors) and email addresses constitute personal data.</p> <p>Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. In our view, disclosure of this information would breach the data protection principles contained in the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reasonable expectations of the employees given their positions; Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust considered that none of the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would be disclosed;</li> <li>• The consequences of disclosure; and</li> <li>• any legitimate public interest in disclosure.</li> </ul> <p>Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore not subject to the public interest test</p>
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12) If yes to question 1: What is the new to follow up ratio for this clinic for the past 3 years (please complete table below)	2021 0.98 2022 0.70 2023 0.64 2024 0.62			
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.