

Ref. No: 2346  
Date: 10/02/26  
Subject: North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre at Southport  
District General Hospital

## REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information regarding the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre at Southport District General Hospital please.

For the financial year 2022-2023:

- Number of potential total capacity of spinal patient beds (assuming you were fully funded, staffed and equipped)
- Number of beds actively in use or available for use by spinal patients
- Number of new spinal patients admitted
- Number of existing spinal patients readmitted (for surgery, wound management, further rehabilitation etc – please provide a breakdown of the types of readmissions if possible)
- How much – and source of – funding you received for providing spinal services (please provide a breakdown of funding sources if multiple)

For the financial year 2023-2024:

- Number of potential total capacity of spinal patient beds (assuming you were fully funded, staffed and equipped)
- Number of beds actively in use or available for use by spinal patients
- Number of new spinal patients admitted
- Number of existing spinal patients readmitted (for surgery, wound management, further rehabilitation etc – please provide a breakdown of the types of readmissions if possible)
- How much – and source of – funding you received for providing spinal services (please provide a breakdown of funding sources if multiple)

For the financial year 2024-2025:

- Number of potential total capacity of spinal patient beds (assuming you were fully funded, staffed and equipped)
- Number of beds actively in use or available for use by spinal patients
- Number of new spinal patients admitted

- Number of existing spinal patients readmitted (for surgery, wound management, further rehabilitation etc – please provide a breakdown of the types of readmissions if possible)
- How much – and source of – funding you received for providing spinal services (please provide a breakdown of funding sources if multiple)

For the financial year 2025-2026 (up to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025):

- Number of potential total capacity of spinal patient beds (assuming you were fully funded, staffed and equipped)
- Number of beds actively in use or available for use by spinal patients
- Number of new spinal patients admitted
- Number of existing spinal patients readmitted (for surgery, wound management, further rehabilitation etc – please provide a breakdown of the types of readmissions if possible)
- How much – and source of – funding you received for providing spinal services (please provide a breakdown of funding sources if multiple)

Finally, please also share your current (as of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025) patient admissions policy for both:

- New spinal patients
- Spinal patients who require readmission for associated treatment or intervention

## RESPONSE

	Potential Total Capacity	New admissions	Secondary admissions
2022-23	51 beds	119	41
2023-24	51 beds	112	38
2024-25	51 beds	118	35
2025-	51 beds	75	15

## Reasons for Secondary Admissions

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-Dec 25
Autonomic Dysreflexia	0	<5	0	<5
Bladder/Bowel management	5	<5	<5	<5
Colonoscopy prep	<5	<5	<5	0
Further SCI rehabilitation	<5	0	<5	0
Infection - investigation/management	<5	<5	<5	<5
Pressure Sore Management	0	<5	0	0
Respiratory management	<5	0	0	<5
Respiratory/Pressure Sore management	0	0	0	<5
Spasticity Management	<5	<5	<5	0
Theatre - Baclofen Pump Explant/Implant	6	<5	10	<5
Theatre - Baclofen Pump Implant	0	0	<5	0
Theatre - Pressure sore repair	8	<5	0	<5
Theatre - Pump Explant	0	0	<5	0
Theatre - Spasticity Management	0	<5	0	0
Theatre - Urology	9	15	8	<5
Ventilation management	<5	5	<5	<5

<5

Due to the low number of patients which is less than five for the period, the Trust is withholding the actual number under section 40 – Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act due to likelihood of identification of the individual(s).

If the requestor or any other member of the general public can, on the balance of probabilities, identify individuals by cross-referencing the anonymised data with other information that was available to them, then the information is personal data and exempt from disclosure under the Act.

Admissions policy has been reviewed, currently in draft and progressing through the Trust approval process

Service funded via Specialised Commissioning in NHS England. Contract value is commercially sensitive and unable to disclose.

### Exemption Applied: Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is applying Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to withhold the requested information.

Following careful consideration, the requested information is being withheld under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption applies where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority itself.

The information in question relates to commercially sensitive matters, which, if disclosed, could undermine the ability of the public authority to operate effectively in a competitive environment. It may also adversely affect the commercial interests of third parties with whom the authority has contractual or financial relationships.

In applying this exemption, the authority has considered the ICO's guidance on the prejudice test. It has concluded that there is a real and significant risk that disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. This assessment is based on the nature of the information, the context in which it is held, and the competitive landscape in which the authority and its partners operate.

As Section 43 is a qualified exemption, the public interest test has also been applied. The authority recognises the public interest in transparency, accountability, and the scrutiny of public spending. However, in this instance, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Releasing the information could distort market competition, damage relationships with suppliers, and reduce the authority's ability to secure value for money in future negotiations.