

Ref. No: 2389
Date: 27th February 2026
Subject: Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic

REQUEST

The minimum, median (average) wait time and maximum wait time from GP referral to patient attendance at Rapid Access Chest Pain clinic at your hospital trust for the following periods:

January 2016 - December 2016
January 2017 - December 2017
January 2018 - December 2018
January 2019 - December 2019
January 2020 - December 2020
January 2021 - December 2021
January 2022 - December 2022
January 2023 - December 2023
January 2024 - December 2024
January 2025 - December 2025
January 2026 - February 2026

RESPONSE

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which is currently set at £450 for NHS organisations. This equates to 18 hours of staff time, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would require searching 1306 patient records with each record taking an estimated 15 minutes. The Trust has estimated that locating, retrieving, and extracting the relevant information would significantly exceed the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.

However, we would be happy to assist you in refining your request to bring it within the cost limit. For example, narrowing the timeframe, specifying particular departments, or focusing on a specific aspect of the information may help reduce the burden of compliance.

Please let us know if you would like support in revising your request.