

Ref. No: 0064
Date: 24/07/23
Subject: Endometriosis

REQUEST

Request for St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust only

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I would like to request the following information and I would like to know about these statistics over:

- a 12-month period using the most up-to-date statistics available and;
 - over a 4-year period from 1 January 2020 to present day using the most up-to-date statistics available:
1. The [NICE Guideline \(73\)](#) states that every general gynaecological department should have a gynaecologist with special interest in endometriosis, by which they should then have additional training by means of [OSATS requirements](#) for subspeciality or other advanced qualifications.

How many appointed professionals with a specialist in endometriosis do you have (a) in your Trust currently and (b) do each of your gynaecological departments have an appointed gynaecologist with a specialist in endometriosis?

2. The number of Clinical Nurse Specialists specialising in endometriosis appointed within your NHS Trust and working within gynaecological departments?
3. The number of people currently waiting to see a (a) gynaecologist and (b) gynaecologist with additional training in endometriosis?
4. The current wait time, in weeks, detailing how long the current wait time is to see a (a) gynaecologist and (b) gynaecologist with special interest in endometriosis?
5. The number of people currently waiting for a gynaecological laparoscopy? The current wait time, in weeks, for a gynaecological laparoscopy?

6. The current wait time, in weeks, for patients requiring access to secondary care for (a) endometriosis and (b) gynaecological issues?
7. The current number of patients being referred or treated for fertility issues directly because of either confirmed endometriosis, suspected endometriosis or an additional suspected gynaecological issue?
8. How much time is currently allocated to routine theatre operating time for (a) non-cancer gynaecology and (b) endometriosis?
9. The current number of patients being referred or treated for fertility issues directly because of either confirmed endometriosis, suspected endometriosis or an additional suspected gynaecological issue?
10. How much time is currently allocated to routine theatre operating time for (a) non-cancer gynaecology and (b) endometriosis?

RESPONSE

Please note that this response pertains only to St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which is no longer a legal entity. Indeed, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023.

1. The [NICE Guideline \(73\)](#) states that every general gynaecological department should have a gynaecologist with special interest in endometriosis, by which they should then have additional training by means of [OSATS requirements](#) for subspeciality or other advanced qualifications.

How many appointed professionals with a specialist in endometriosis do you have:

- a. In your Trust currently?

One

- b. Do each of your gynaecological departments have an appointed gynaecologist with a specialist in endometriosis?

Yes

- 2. The number of Clinical Nurse Specialists specialising in endometriosis appointed within your NHS Trust and working within gynaecological departments?**

None

- 3. The number of people currently waiting to see a (a) gynaecologist and (b) gynaecologist with additional training in endometriosis?**

We do not have a specific endometriosis clinic so not possible to say how many women waiting to be seen specifically for endometriosis as they would attend a GOPD and be seen / managed by other consultants.

- 4. The current wait time, in weeks, detailing how long the current wait time is to see a (a) gynaecologist and (b) gynaecologist with special interest in endometriosis?**

Wait to be seen in outpatients is approximately 20 weeks providing no cancellations. We do not have a designated specialist in Endometriosis.

- 5. The number of people currently waiting for a gynaecological laparoscopy? The current wait time, in weeks, for a gynaecological laparoscopy?**

We have minimal patients waiting for just a laparoscopy and when they are dated would be dependent upon the urgency they are listed for. We do not have designated endometriosis lists.

- 6. The current wait time, in weeks, for patients requiring access to secondary care for (a) endometriosis and (b) gynaecological issues?**

All referred to general Gynaecology - general wait as above.

- 7. The current number of patients being referred or treated for fertility issues directly because of either confirmed endometriosis, suspected endometriosis or an additional suspected gynaecological issue?**

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

The Trust would need to manually review the medical records of each patient referred or treated since 2020, to provide an answer to this question. We estimate that this would exceed the appropriate limit.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

8. How much time is currently allocated to routine theatre operating time for:

a. non-cancer gynaecology?

We have 13 sessions per week in theatre with 2 designated lists for Ca.

b. endometriosis?

We do not have specific endometriosis theatre lists.

9. The current number of patients being referred or treated for fertility issues directly because of either confirmed endometriosis, suspected endometriosis or an additional suspected gynaecological issue?

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

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Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

10. How much time is currently allocated to routine theatre operating time for (a) non-cancer gynaecology and (b) endometriosis?

We have 13 theatre sessions per week and none that are dedicated to endometriosis.