

FOI 3554

30th January 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Please provide the following information for December 2024 to November 2025, financial year 2024/25, or the most recent 12 month period available:

1. Scan volume

Total number of lower limb duplex or Doppler ultrasound scans performed for suspected deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Response:

Total number of US Dopplers carried out between Dec 24 and Nov 25 was 2769.

2. Waiting times

a) Average time from order to completion, or request to scan completion, whichever your systems record.

b) If recorded, the number or percentage of patients who received their scan within:

i. 4 hours-

Response:

28%

ii. between 4 and 24 hours

Response:

40%

iii. between 24 and 48 hours

Response:

10%

iv. More than 48 hours after request

Response:

22%

Please note that Southern Trust have a Doppler Pathway- Persons attending Emergency Department DVT are routinely sent home with a course of Clexane and a dedicated US appointment time given.

3. Overnight admissions

Number admitted overnight specifically to await their scan, if recorded.

This information is not recorded centrally and therefore retrieving it would involve a manual search of patient records. As such we cannot provide this information as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In order to obtain this information from a number of individual patient records would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

In addition, it would not be appropriate to search through individual patient records for the purposes for responding to a FOI request, there would be no patient expectation that medical records would be used in this way.

Furthermore, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, we can advise that it would require an extensive manual review of all hospital admissions just to ascertain if information relevant to your request is held. As such, we advise that there is no way to refine this request to bring it within the appropriate limit.

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