

FOI 3771

1st July 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

I am conducting research into regional variation in access to breast reconstruction services across the UK and would be grateful for the following information for the most recent available year (or the last 3 years if easier to provide):

- 1. Does your Trust directly provide breast reconstruction surgery for patients undergoing mastectomy for breast cancer?**

Response:

Yes

- 2. If breast reconstruction is not provided within your Trust, to which centre(s) or organisation(s) are patients referred?**

Response:

N/A

- 3. Which types of breast reconstruction are available to patients within your Trust or via formal referral pathways?**

Response:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| ○ Implant-based reconstruction - | Yes |
| ○ Latissimus dorsi flap - | No |
| ○ DIEP flap - | Yes |
| ○ Other autologous flap reconstruction (please specify if possible) - | |
| Yes | |

- 4. Are there any formal eligibility criteria, thresholds, or policies governing access to breast reconstruction (including immediate and delayed reconstruction), such as:**

- Limits on number or type of revision procedures
- Time limits for revision procedures
- BMI thresholds
- Smoking cessation requirements

- Diabetes control requirements
- Comorbidity-related exclusions
- Any other access criteria

Please provide copies of any relevant written policies or guidance where available.

Response:

No

5. Is surgery on the contralateral (non-cancer) breast for the purpose of achieving symmetry (e.g. reduction, augmentation, mastopexy) routinely available?

Response:

Yes

6. What is the average waiting time for:
- a) Immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy

Response:

4 weeks

- b) Delayed breast reconstruction following mastectomy

Response:

3 - 4 years

7. Approximately how many patients per year are referred outside your Trust for breast reconstruction services?

Response:

Where patients require input from Plastics Service, they are referred to either Belfast Health & Social Care Trust or Ulster Hospital at South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust as Southern Health & Social Care Trust has no plastics service. There are approximately 2 referrals per month.

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