

Date: Monday, 22nd January 2024
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 6087

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6087

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 27th December 2023.

Your request was as follows:

1. Has your Trust implemented GIRFT pathway for suspected CES in all of its hospitals.

As The Walton Centre is a specialist Trust not all aspects of the pathway apply, the surgical pathway at WCFT already aligns itself to the GIRFT CES pathway.

2. If the answer to Q1 is affirmative, please advise when it was implemented and advise on the following:

I. Number of CES related training to staff in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation;

II. Number of MRI scans undertaken for suspected CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation;

III. Average time between MRI referral and performance of the scan for suspected CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation;

IV. Number of patients who underwent surgery for CES in the period since implemented compared to the same period duration prior to implementation;

V. Breakdown of feedback raised by clinicians with your Trust regarding implementation of the pathway including total number of clinicians who provided feedback, whether positive or negative and its nature (for example resource issue /training/delays/patient safety).

I. - Training sessions are being planned for staff, which will be held by the Lead Spinal Consultant.

II. - Not applicable, patients are transferred to WCFT after scanning.

III. - Not applicable patients are transferred to WCFT after scanning.

IV. - February 2023 to December 2023 (11 months) = 64. VS March 2022 to January 2023 (11 months) = 63

V. - No feedback raised.

3. If the answer to Q1 is negative, please state:

I. If only some hospitals within your Trust implemented the pathway, please state which ones did not and the reason why.

II. What other policy is followed with regards to the diagnosis and management of CES?

III. Are the plans for the pathway to be implemented in the future and if so when? If not, why not?

IV. Breakdown of feedback raised by clinicians with your Trust regarding lack of implementation of the pathway including total number of clinicians who provided feedback, whether positive or negative and its nature (for example resource issue/training/delays/patient safety)

N/A.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 6087 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information