

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 20-021

28 January 2020

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- a) Does your Trust have a process in place for patients who are unable to fit in, or use, an MRI machine but who may need a MRI scan? If so, what is this process?

Before January 2020, the Trust sent patients to a third party company with an open scanner. However this has now been de-installed and a wider bore closed MRI scanner is being installed currently at the Trust, but will not be available for clinical use before April 2020.

The Trust has taken the decision to image bariatric patients in our own wide bore closed MRI scanner in the Children's department. This will be an interim measure until we install our wide bore closed MRI scanner in the adult department later this year.

- b) Does your Trust send patients who may need an MRI scan who meet the criteria of being unable to use your Trusts' scanners above, to other locations, for example, zoos or research facilities?

The Trust does not send patients to zoos. Although the Trust has access to a wide bore closed 3T MRI scanner at our partner university, this scanner is not suitable for all MRI imaging and as yet we have not used it specifically for bariatric patients.

- c) Does your Trust pay other facilities such as zoos or research facilities for the use of their MRI machines? If so, how much did you Trust pay these facilities last financial year (2019-20)?

Yes, the Radiology department fund the university for the time on their 3T scanner used for the Trust scans.

Department using CRIC Scanner	Cost of using CRIC MRI scanner April 2019-Dec 2019
Radiology MRI	£5,000
Cardiac MRI	£37,217

- d) If applicable, how many patients have needed an MRI in facilities provided in places other than your Trust last year? Please provide the location and reason for this.

The figures in the table below relate to all outsourced work for the reasons given.

3 rd Party facility providing MRI capacity	No of patients sent 19/20 April – Dec 2019	Types of imaging	Reason
Cobalt Open Scanner	30	All non- cardiac MRI	Claustrophobic/b
In-Health	1655	MSK MRI	ariatric capacity
CRIC (Radiology- non Cardiac MRI)	261	MSK MRI	capacity
CRIC (Cardiac MRI)	115	Cardiac MRI	capacity

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Director of Corporate Governance
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

FOI Team
UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust