

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 20-080**

28 February 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:

**Request:**

1. I would like to request any policy or document that describes your trust's current approach for offering choice to patients who have been on an elective pathway for over 26 weeks.
2. I would also like to request any documents regarding a pilot scheme for or about 26 week choice at your trust.

The 26 Choice that I am referring to is outlined in the following document and specifically explained in the following text from that document.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-21-NHS-Operational-Planning-Contracting-Guidance.pdf>

"A number of pilot sites across the country are now putting in place practical solutions to offer patients who have been waiting for 26 weeks on an RTT pathway a meaningful choice of an alternative provider. During 2020/21, all providers and systems should be implementing supplementary choice at 26 weeks with reference to the 26 Week Choice Rules and Guidance and the best practice models emerging from the pilot programme. In preparation, providers should ensure they have robust validation arrangements in place, so that waiting list data are as accurate as possible".

**Response:**

The national planning guidance which includes a reference to the 26 week standard was published on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (please see page 13). This planning guidance sets out the priorities for the NHS for the financial year 2020/21. The Trust needs to work towards implementing these standards from April 2020.

The 26 week standard was originally outlined as part of a national clinical review of waiting time standards; the initial report was published in March 2019. The report set out a series of new standards to be piloted including a 26 week choice standard.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-operational-planning-and-contracting-guidance-2020-21/>

A progress report was published by the national team in October 2019. These documents provide a list of Trusts that are piloting the new standards. University Hospitals Bristol is not involved in the pilot of the 26 week standard. However, the Trust was selected to pilot the average waiting time for incomplete pathways standard.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/clinically-led-review-nhs-access-standards/>

The final national report is due in March 2020.

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**

