



Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 19-654

13 November 2019

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:

Regarding cleft palate repair operations completed at UHB and if possible for all facilities within the Connecting Care area of which UHB is a part of - Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos. - for years 2000 - 2019, or as latest data exists.

I kindly request that the response include:

1. The age of the patient at the time of the procedure (not date of birth).
2. The date of the procedure – Linda, maybe give the no of procedures per month?
3. The outcome of the procedure - success or not
4. The team administrating
5. The surgeon performing the operation.
6. The date of the first encounter with the administrating team regarding this condition. (ie. How long did the patient wait before surgery?)

Response:

The Trust can provide information for University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust only. We do not have information from other Trusts in the Connecting Care area.

Please note that whilst University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust holds the information requested, we are unable to provide the detailed information in a form of a list of operations as it may lead to the identification of the individuals. In this case, the exact date of the operation, the surgeon who conducted the operation combined with the patient's age may lead to the individual being identified. Disclosure of data relating to an identifiable individual

would be in contravention of the principles set out in EU General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR) and UK Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

Therefore the Trust will not disclose this information applying the exemption under sections 40 (2) and 40 (3) (a) (i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the Trust is able to provide the below information regarding Repair of Cleft Palate operations.

1. The age of the patient at the time of the procedure (not date of birth).

Age	Total
0 - 1 year olds	276
1	113
2	17
3	36
4	32
5	17
6	12
7	39
8	37
9-11	31
12-16	9
17-30	10
37-54	5

For patients over the age of 8 the procedure is likely an alveolar bone graft rather than a primary repair of cleft palate. The Trust has grouped the patient ages from age 9 and above to avoid revealing low numbers which can potentially lead to patient identification.

2. The date of the procedure?

Please see below the number of procedures per month.

Discharge Date	Total	Team/Site
Nov 2010	1	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Mar 2011	1	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Dec 2011	1	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Aug 2012	1	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jul 2013	2	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
May 2014	3	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jun 2014	9	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jul 2014	14	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Aug 2014	9	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Sep 2014	11	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Oct 2014	12	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Nov 2014	9	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Dec 2014	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jan 2015	14	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Feb 2015	11	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

Mar 2015	15	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Apr 2015	11	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
May 2015	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jun 2015	18	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and one operation in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Jul 2015	15	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Aug 2015	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and two in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Sep 2015	13	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, one in Bristol Royal Infirmary and one in St Michael's Hospital
Oct 2015	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Nov 2015	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Dec 2015	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and one in St Michael's Hospital
Jan 2016	14	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Feb 2016	13	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Mar 2016	15	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Apr 2016	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
May 2016	14	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jun 2016	15	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and one in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Jul 2016	15	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Aug 2016	17	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and two in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Sep 2016	11	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Oct 2016	5	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Nov 2016	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Dec 2016	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jan 2017	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Feb 2017	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Mar 2017	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Apr 2017	3	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
May 2017	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and two in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Jun 2017	9	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jul 2017	12	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and one in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Aug 2017	13	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Sep 2017	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Oct 2017	5	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Nov 2017	11	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and one in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Dec 2017	6	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jan 2018	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Feb 2018	4	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Mar 2018	11	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Apr 2018	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
May 2018	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jun 2018	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and one in Bristol Royal Infirmary
Jul 2018	9	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Aug 2018	6	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Sep 2018	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

Oct 2018	10	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Nov 2018	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Dec 2018	8	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jan 2019	12	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Feb 2019	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Mar 2019	2	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Apr 2019	6	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
May 2019	12	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jun 2019	6	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Jul 2019	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Aug 2019	6	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Sep 2019	9	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Oct 2019	7	Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
Grand Total	634	

Any operations that were carried out prior to May 2014 would have been for patients with a cleft lip and palate that had other complex medical history that would have necessitated specialist care at the Children’s Hospital. Routine cleft operations were undertaken at North Bristol NHS Trust hence the significantly smaller number of patients that were treated during this time. In May 2014, Children’s services were transferred to Bristol Children’s Hospital from NBT.

3. The outcome of the procedure - success or not.

The Trust does not hold this information.

4. The team administrating

Please see response in third column in question 2.

5. The surgeon performing the operation.

Please see below the consultants who perform this type of surgery:

Shaheel Chummun

Alistair Cobb

Nigel Mercer (locum)

6. The date of the first encounter with the administrating team regarding this condition. (ie. how long did the patient wait before surgery?)

Referral To Treatment (RTT) Days	No. of cases
1	5
2	4
4	2
5	7
6	24
7	16
9	4
12	10

13	16
14	5
15	5
16	9
17	2
19	14
20	12
21	7
22	12
23	11
24	8
26	10
27	17
28	11
29	9
30	1
31	2
32	1
33	6
34	12
35	5
37	7
39	3
40	6
41	11
42	12
43	4
45	1
46	2
47	12
48	9
49	4
51	5
55	8
56	5
58	1
61	2
62	3
63	4
64	5
65	1
66	1
70	4
71	2
72	1
75	2
76	2
83	4
84	4
85	2
86	1
89	2
90	7

92	4
93	2
96	2
97	1
98	2
99	2
103	1
106	1
110	4
118	3
120	1
123	4
124	1
125	1
127	2
140	1
145	2
163	1
167	1
170	1
180	1
182	2
195	1
200	1
209	3
212	1
215	1
216	1
244	1
257	1
305	2
341	1
(Not available)	197
Grand Total	634

The operations are done at an appropriate age range. Babies are referred at time of birth and we would know at that stage whether they will need an operation to repair their palate and it is planned for when the child is at an appropriate age/size rather than how long they have been on the waiting list. Some patients with complex medical histories may wait longer to allow them to grow.

In addition, during the period that UHB have records for the Trust have also been participating in a research programme that has been looking at the timing of palate surgery and patients have been randomly allocated different times for their surgery to see if this has an effect on their speech in the long term (TOPS trial). This was undertaken with the full consent of the parents concerned and will have had an effect on when the palate surgery was undertaken.

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