

Date: **9 October 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5397**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your requests for information below:

Your Request

I'm looking into secondary care discharge letters and referrals and would like a few questions to be answered under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please could you provide answers to each separate question covering the following time periods:

*The first covering the time period 1st January 2015 – 31st December 2015;
The second covering the time period 1st January 2016 – 31st December 2016;
The third covering the time period 1st January 2017 – 31st December 2017;
and the fourth covering the time period 1st January 2018 – 31st December 2018.*

1. *For each time period, how many discharge summaries were sent to GP practices after 24 hours of a discharge of a patient? i.e how many discharge summaries were delayed in sending to GPs? This counts for outpatient, inpatient, day case and A&E care.*

Also, if you are able to answer within the confines of the FOI limitations, please answer the following:

2. *For each time period, how many discharge summaries included planned and requested actions for GPs?*

3. *How many consultant to consultant (C2C) referrals were made in each time period?*

Our Request for Clarification

Great Ormond Street Hospital is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust and does not have an A&E department. We believed your request for information to be focusing on general hospitals discharging patients within 24 hours and sending discharge summaries to GPs. We therefore contacted you to provide the following clarification:

- Whether general hospitals discharging patients within 24 hours and sending discharge summaries to GPs is the focus of your request for information?

Great Ormond Street Hospital does not centrally record discharge summary information and would estimate your request to be too broad to process within the 18 hour cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your Response to Our Request for Clarification

We are asking for data from all trusts, including tertiary trusts, thus we would like any data you hold centrally.

Our Response

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the ‘Trust’) is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. The Trust does not centrally record the information you have requested, however, we have carried out a search via our information services to see whether the information can be collated within the 18 cost limit for processing a request for information. Please see our response (in bold) to your following request for information:

Please note: The Trust does not have an A&E department as GOSH is specialist tertiary paediatric trust. Outpatient data has not been included as GOSH is not subject to a 24 hour turnaround target. For Discharge Summaries, we are unable to differentiate between what has been sent to GP practices, families and other providers, therefore, we have provided the data covering all discharge summaries.

1. *For each time period, how many discharge summaries were sent to GP practices after 24 hours of a discharge of a patient? i.e how many discharge summaries were delayed in sending to GPs? This counts for outpatient, inpatient, day case and A&E care. **Please our response in the following table based on inpatient NHS activity relating to discharges where a discharge letter was required:***

Discharge Summaries	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total discharges where discharge summary required	23781	24623	24019	24369
Number of NHS discharge summaries sent in 1 day	18971	20950	21139	21063
Number of NHS discharge summaries not sent in 1 day	4810	3673	2880	3306
% of discharges sent within 1 day	79.77	85.08	88.01	86.43
% of discharges not sent within 1 day	20.23	14.92	11.99	13.57

Also, if you are able to answer within the confines of the FOI limitations, please answer the following:

2. For each time period, how many discharge summaries included planned and requested actions for GPs? **The Trust has been unable to identify any discharge summaries recorded in the format of planned and requested actions for GPs.**

3. How many consultant to consultant (C2C) referrals were made in each time period?

Please note: GOSH is a tertiary and quaternary centre and, therefore, approximately 90% of all referrals will be received from other hospitals. As such, the number of Consultant to Consultant referrals will be significantly more at GOSH compared to other organisations.

Please see our response in the following table based on NHS Referrals received where the source of referral was 'Consultant/This hospital' or 'Consultant/Other hospital' and referred to a hospital consultant:

Calendar Year	Number of NHS consultant to consultant referrals
2015	38907
2016	42290
2017	38841
2018	38262

Please note:

The information provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We trust the information provided is sufficient and helped to answer any issues, concerns or questions. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information team

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk

[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI team and quote your reference number on all correspondence relating to your request.

You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team
Great Ormond Street Hospital
LONDON
WC1N 3JH

If you are still not satisfied with your response, you also have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF