

Date: **10/02/2020**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5628**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Your Request

- 1) *Number of cases of epilepsy treated with laser ablation (Litt) in the latest 3 years (divided by year)*
- 3) *Use of Litt for other surgical procedures: for each indication, number of cases in the latest 3 years (divided by year)*
- 2) *Stats on: age, gender, the residency of the patients treated with LiTT divided by indication*
- 3) *Timing to execute the surgical LiTT procedure separated by phase: e.g. preoperative planning, patient preparation, setup of the LiTT machine, etc.*
- 4) *The number of staff involved during the surgical procedure divided by roles: eg. Surgeon – 1h of involvement, etc.*
- 5) *Information regarding the LiTT machine: supplier (distributor and brand), year of purchase, initial capital cost, depreciation per year, maintenance cost, training cost, cost per surgical operation (consumable and sterilisation), other equipment used with the LiTT machine intraoperatively (e.g. iMR)*
- 6) *Stats on outcomes of the surgery on day 1, at one month and 1 year*
- 7) *Stats on direct costs associated with the patient before and after surgery.*

Our Request for Clarification

We requested clarification to Q.8 and asked you to define the exact meaning of 'direct costs associated with the patient before and after surgery'?

Your Response to Our Request for Clarification

You responded to clarify that you wish to know the average cost of staff and equipment involved pre and after surgery. Eg. Time/cost consultant, number of imaging acquisitions required etc.

Our Response

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. The information you have request is not centrally recorded in the format of the questions specified. We have carried out an assessment of the level of work involved, if we were to conduct a search to identify, locate and extract any relevant information held within the relevant teams; because we have to keep in mind the 18 hour cost limit stipulated for processing a request for information under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We have estimated that to process your request for information would exceed the 18 hours cost limit, which is based on the following calculation:

- We estimate that to respond to Q.4 would take approximately 3 hours. It would require a member of staff to speak with the Surgeon and Theatre staff to understand the procedure, break it down to phases and understand the timings then collate all the information located, identified and extracted.
- We estimate that to respond to Q.6 and Q.8 would take approximately 24 hours. This is based on the level of work it would take to conduct a costing exercise. This would require collating information from the General Manager of the relevant department, information from the Finance Department and information from the Clinical team. We estimate that it would take 8 hours for a member of staff from each area to locate, identify and extract information from their respective departments therefore an estimated combined total of 24 hours would be required.

The Trust has estimated that to respond to Q.4, Q.6 and Q.8 alone would take 27 hours thus exceeding the statutory time limit of 18 hours by 9 hours.

The ICO guidance states that a public authority should stop searching for the information, as soon as known, if the information cannot be identified, located and extracted within the cost limit. Although we have identified some information that is relevant to your request, we have also calculated that to provide a response to your request would exceed the 18 hour cost limit as outlined above.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows the Trust to refuse a request where the cost

of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for Section 12 purposes is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 - SI 2004 No. 3244 ('Fees Regulation').

Under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation the appropriate cost limit for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded, if it would require more than 18 hours' work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Please note:

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

We hope the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions or any issues or concerns. 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

Should you have any questions relating to the response you have received to your request for information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team. Alternatively, you are entitled to make a request for an internal review within two months from the date of receiving our final response to your original 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, however, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the FOI process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510