

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/592  
**From:** Other  
**Date:** 23 January 2025  
**Subject:** Number of referrals for hernia repairs, wait times & procedures performed

**Q1** What are the total number of NHS referrals for primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs at your trust in the last 3 years with a year-on-year breakdown?

**A1** Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.

**Q2** What are the total number of primary inguinal, femoral, umbilical and epigastric hernia repairs performed for the NHS at your trust in the last 3 years with a year-on-year breakdown?

A2	Operations Hernia Type	Year		
		2022	2023	2024
	Epigastric	13	13	15
	Femoral	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data.		
	Inguinal	Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.		
	Umbilical	30	28	38
	<b>Grand Total</b>	46	54	113

**Q3** How many of these NHS hernia patients were treated by open repair? And how many by laparoscopic repair? Of these treated are by open repair, how many were done under a local anaesthetic?

A3		2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
		Open	46	51	98
	Laparoscopic	0	Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.		18
				15	

0% of open repairs were conducted with Local Anaesthetic only.

**Q4** What proportion of these NHS hernia patients required an overnight stay during the period above or for what period you are able to provide this?

A4	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
	11%	11%	19%	15%

- Q5 What is the average wait time for an NHS hernia patient to be seen in an outpatient clinic?
- A5 93.15 days
- Q6 What is the average time between an NHS hernia patient being listed for surgery to the operation being performed?
- A6 197.09 days
- Q7 How many NHS hernia patients have required readmission following any type of hernia surgery outlined above?
- A7 15
- Q8 How many patients developed post-operative infection within 10 days of surgery?
- A8 Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.
- Q9 How many patients developed chronic pain after the hernia repair?
- A9 Zero
- Q10 How many patients developed a recurrent hernia within one year of surgery?
- A10 Zero

The Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.

- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the “physical or mental health or condition” of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.