

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6265

**Please reply to:**  
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## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to cataract operations.

*You asked:*

- 1. How many people are currently on the waiting list for cataract surgery? How does this compare with each year for the past five years?*
- 2. What is the average time a patient is on the waiting list for cataract surgery before having the procedure?*
- 3. How long has the patient who has had the longest wait for cataract surgery been waiting?*
- 4. How has Covid-19 affected waiting times for cataract operations?*
- 5. How many cataract surgeries have you carried out each month this year?*
- 6. How many cataract surgeries have you carried out each month last year?*
- 7. How many cataract surgeries did you carry out each month five years ago in 2015?*

Trust response:

1. The number of patients waiting on a Referral To Treatment (RTT) pathway for cataract surgery as at 31st July 2020 was 796.

For comparison, the number of patients waiting for cataract surgery at the end of the past five financial years, i.e. as at 31st March, is as follows:

31st March end of financial year position	Number of patients waiting for a cataract procedure
2015-2016	740
2016-2017	868
2017-2018	766
2018-2019	1,198
2019-2020	857

2. The average RTT waiting time for patients awaiting cataract surgery as at 31st March 2020 was 115 days.

3. The longest RTT waiting time as at 31st July 2020 as recorded in the July monthly position was 794 days.

4. The average waiting time for patients awaiting cataract surgery as at 31st March 2020 was 115 days (as stated above). The average RTT waiting time as at 31st July 2020 was 194 days. Therefore during the months of April to July 2020, when Covid-19 has had the most impact, the average waiting time has lengthened by 79 days.

5. Please see below a table of cataract surgeries performed each month

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2020	400	325	216	none	none	55	72	156				
2019	299	254	283	260	374	255	379	322	419	402	419	313
2017	319	296	324	255	294	364	321	305	311	313	360	269
2016				437	394	440	398	378	395	365	406	298

6. Please see above table

7. Please see above table. The earliest readily available data is April 2016.