

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8574

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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16 November 2023

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 contracts with private hospitals to provide surgeries and tests to NHS patients.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.
Please provide me with information on Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's contracts with private hospitals to provide surgeries and tests to NHS patients, whether as part of the Elective Recovery Plan or in the ordinary course of providing surgeries and tests to NHS patients.*

This information should include:

- 1. Which private hospitals you have contracts with,*
- 2. What the monetary value of each contract is,*
- 3. And, what surgeries and tests the private hospitals are contracted to provide under each contract.*

Trust response:

1. In 2019 Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) were appointed by NHS West Kent Commissioning Group the prime provider contract which aimed to develop an improved and streamlined pathway for the management of elective care referrals via one single patient pathway for West Kent patients. As part of the contract, MTW can procure services from the following independent sector (IS) hospitals:

- Nuffield Hospital, Tunbridge Wells
- The Horder Centre
- The Spire Hospital, Tunbridge Wells
- The Spire Sussex Hospital
- Benenden Hospital
- KIMS Hospital
- The Spire Alexandra Hospital
- Practice Plus Group

2. We are not able to differentiate whether patients are choice patients (those who choose to go to an IS if they fit the IS criteria) or whether the patient is a long waiting patient (elective recovery fund) without checking each individual patient record. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

Currently the Trust is only sending patient choice activity out to the IS's.

3. Each hospital provides a range of services.