

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8889

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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 Gastroenterology and Colonoscopy.

You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.

- 1. What is the current waiting time for initial (first) gastroenterology referral appointments (non urgent).*
- 2. What is the current waiting time for follow up, routine, gastroenterology appointments?*
- 3. What is the current waiting time for referral for urgent gastroenterology appointments (under the two week wait pathway).*
- 4. What is the current waiting time for non-urgent colonoscopy appointments?*
- 5. What is the current waiting time for urgent colonoscopy referrals?*

Trust response:

1. Based upon outpatient appointments attended in February 2024 for routine (non-urgent) RTT Gastroenterology pathways, the average waiting time for a first appointment was 27.8 weeks from referral date.
2. The Trust is unable to answer this question at the moment. The waiting time for a follow up appointment depends upon the course of the pathway, e.g. the patient might be added to the inpatient waiting list or the patient might start a period of active monitoring. To get a meaningful figure for how long patients are waiting for follow up appointments (relative to how long they should be waiting) the Trust needs accurate target dates for follow up appointments. There is currently a lack of clear target dates, this is a known issue that is slowly being addressed.
3. We can provide information for a referral on an Upper GI urgent suspected cancer referral (covering all Upper GI – Gastro/Oesophagus/Pancreatic/etc) Looking at patients first seen on an Upper GI referral for February 2024 (this is the latest submitted position available).

196 patients from an Upper GI referral first seen in February 2024.

7 days is the average waiting time from referral to first seen appointment.

The majority of patients were seen between Day 2 and Day 5.

4. The published DM01 (Diagnostic Waiting Times return) provides the waiting time for diagnostic colonoscopies in general. The January 2024 figures for this Trust show that of 206 patients on the colonoscopy waiting list as at 31st January, 203 patients had been waiting under 6 weeks, 3 patients had been waiting more than 6 weeks and none had been waiting more than 11 weeks. These figures can be found on the Monthly Diagnostics – Provider – January 2024 spreadsheet: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/monthly-diagnostics-waiting-times-and-activity/monthly-diagnostics-data-2023-24/>

5. Average waiting time in weeks for urgent elective colonoscopy based on May 2024 data.

Urgency	Adm Method 11 – Elective Admission (weeks)
TWO WEEK WAIT	1.6
URGENT	3.1