

**Information on waiting times for elective surgery
(Freedom of information request)**



6th February 2015

Dear Freedom of Information Manager,

The Patients Association is a national independent health and social care charity which listens to the experiences of patients and speaks up for change. We continue to hear via our Helpline and through our own research that there are regional variations in waiting times for certain elective surgical procedures. We have undertaken activities to monitor this situation over the previous five years, and continue to do so.

In response to these continued reports, we are carrying out an investigation into the waiting times for 7 standard procedures across NHS trusts in England. These procedures are:

- Hip
- Knee
- Hernia
- Adenoid
- Gallstone
- Tonsillectomy
- Cataract

The specific questions are laid out below this letter.

I would like to obtain this information under a Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request. I expect your response within the statutory period of 20 working days.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Katherine Murphy
Chief Executive
The Patients Association

Patients Association FOI request questions

1. Which Regional Team does your hospital belong to?

Please tick **ONE** of the following 4 options:

North of England	
Midlands and East of England	
London	*
South of England	

2. Please set out the number of individual elective procedures that took place in your Trust in 2014 for the following categories.

Hip replacement	80
Knee replacement	143
Hernia Operations	431
Adenoid Operations	32
Gallstone operations	211
Tonsillectomies	120
Cataract operations	n/a

3. Please set out the *mean* average waiting time (in days) within your Trust, for each of the following procedures in 2014.

Please only include *“Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting time”*

Hip replacement	94
Knee replacement	91
Hernia Operations	89
Adenoid Operations	91
Gallstone operations	83
Tonsillectomies	91
Cataract operations	n/a

4. Please set out the number of patients who waited for longer than 18 weeks, within your Trust, for each of the following procedures in 2014. (Only include cases where clock was running)

Hip replacement	11
Knee replacement	13
Hernia Operations	38
Adenoid Operations	6
Gallstone operations	18
Tonsillectomies	13
Cataract operations	n/a

Please send your responses within the statutory response time to:
mailbox@patients-association.com

The Patients Association PO Box 935 Harrow Middlesex HA1 3YJ Helpline tel: 0845 608 4455 / 020 8423 8999
Office tel: 020 8423 9111 fax: 020 8423 9119 e mail: mailbox@patients-association.com web: www.patients-association.com

President – Sir Robert Francis QC

Vice Presidents - Dr Phil Hammond Prof Ian Hutchison Sir Donald Irvine

Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws Baroness Masham of Ilton Angela Rippon Lynn Faulds Wood Dr Andrew Pearson Jo Brand Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale
Dame Esther Rantzen CBE Dr Jacqui Morris

Supporters – Lord Clement-Jones Dr Thomas Stuttaford Dr Brian Iddon