

Ref. No: 0526  
Date: 13/12/23  
Subject: Waiting Lists (Surgery)

## REQUEST

Please can I request the following information in order to support my formal complaint:

1. I was added to Miss Taghizadeh's waiting list for double breast reconstruction surgery following mastectomy.
  - a. What position was I in when added to this wait list?
  - b. What position am I in now on this same wait list?
2. I believe in order to perform my surgery I would require a theatre list which covers 3 theatre sessions on the same day as the operation is 12+ hours.
  - a. How many same day 3 session theatre lists has Miss Taghizadeh completed since November 2021 to date?
  - b. Are these lists kept solely for deep inferior epigastric perforator (DIEP) flap surgery?
3. How many DIEP double breast reconstruction surgeries has Miss Taghizadeh completed since November 2021?
  - a. How many of these have been urgent cancer patient?
  - b. How many of these patients have been from the elective list I am waiting on?
  - c. How many of these patients have been from an alternative list?
4. Does DIEP single breast reconstruction surgery take place on a same day 3 session theatre list?
5. If yes, how many DIEP single breast reconstruction surgeries has Miss Taghizadeh completed since November 2021?
  - a. How many of these have been urgent cancer patient?
  - b. How many of these patients have been from the elective list I am waiting on?
  - c. How many of these patients have been from an alternative list?

**6. I believe when added to the wait list I was looking at an 18 month wait. This wait has been increased to 30 months and I am looking to understand how this has happened because prior to this year events such as strikes will not have impacted on this list and I would have thought I would have become near to the top of this list.**

**a. What has impacted this list to justify the additional year wait time?**

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

**1. I was added to Miss Taghizadeh's waiting list for double breast reconstruction surgery following mastectomy.**

**a. What position was I in when added to this wait list?**

Position 199 on Miss Taghizadeh's waiting list at as 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

**b. What position am I in now on this same wait list?**

There are 30 patients who were listed for DIEP reconstruction surgery before you currently on Miss Taghizadeh's waiting list. 12 of these are awaiting bilateral DIEP reconstruction surgery.

**2. I believe in order to perform my surgery I would require a theatre list which covers 3 theatre sessions on the same day as the operation is 12+ hours.**

**a. How many same day 3 session theatre lists has Miss Taghizadeh completed since November 2021 to date?**

Miss Taghizadeh has completed 79 three session day theatre lists between the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**b. Are these lists kept solely for deep inferior epigastric perforator (DIEP) flap surgery?**

No – as we occasionally have other complex reconstructions to accommodate, this will be decided on clinical need.

**3. How many DIEP double breast reconstruction surgeries has Miss Taghizadeh completed since November 2021?**

9

**a. How many of these have been urgent cancer patient?**

<5

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

**b. How many of these patients have been from the elective list I am waiting on?**

<5

Section 40: personal information

Please note <5 has been added where the number of individuals is 5 or less, this information has been redacted to protect the confidentiality of individuals and to ensure they cannot be identified.

**c. How many of these patients have been from an alternative list?**

Nil

**4. Does DIEP single breast reconstruction surgery take place on a same day 3 session theatre list?**

Yes, however other breast cases are also booked on these days.

**5. If yes, how many DIEP single breast reconstruction surgeries has Miss Taghizadeh completed since November 2021?**

69

**a. How many of these have been urgent cancer patient?**

46

**b. How many of these patients have been from the elective list I am waiting on?**

23

**c. How many of these patients have been from an alternative list?**

Nil

**6. Waiting times have increased from 18 months to 30 months and I am looking to understand how this has happened because prior to this year events such as strikes will not have impacted on this list and I would have thought I would have become near to the top of this list.**

**a. What has impacted this list to justify the additional year wait time?**

- Increase in referrals for urgent mastectomy and DIEP reconstruction surgery.
- Changes to genetic testing of patients having neo adjuvant chemotherapy.
- Industrial action by Consultants and Junior Doctors.
- Industrial action by nursing teams.
- Compulsory Trust audit sessions.
- Annual, professional, and study leave.
- Winter bed pressures.
- The availability of two consultant surgeons for bilateral DIEP reconstruction lists.