

Ref. No: 0668  
Date: 07/02/24  
Subject: Blindness (Ophthalmology Waiting List)

## REQUEST

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, the number of patients who have become blind or partially blind, whilst waiting for treatment on an ophthalmology RTT pathway at your Trust in each of the last 3 full financial years.

## 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.

### Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

We would need to undertake a manual review of patient records throughout the requested timespan to provide the information requested. We estimate that this would far exceed the appropriate time limits.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.