

Ref no: 111040920  
From: Commercial  
Date: 04/09/20  
Subject: Referrals / second opinions for an existing course of treatment.

## REQUEST

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act into the number of patients within your NHS Trust who have requested referrals / second opinions for an existing course of treatment.

I have detailed the request below:

- 1. How many patients asked their GP or consultant to be referred to another professional for an existing course of treatment in the following time periods?**

Year	Number of patients who asked their GP	Number of patients who asked their Consultant
2020 (year to date)		
2019		
2018		

- 2. In how many cases was the request rejected in the following time periods?**

Year	Number of requests rejected by GPs	Number of requests rejected by Consultants
2020 (year to date)		
2019		
2018		

- 3. In how many cases did the treatment recommendation change because of the patient requesting a referral or second opinion in the following periods?**

Year	Number of GP referral requests which resulted in treatment change	Number of Consultant referral requests which resulted in treatment change
2020 (year to date)		
2019		

**RESPONSE**

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals Trust does not have to comply with a request if we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days in answering the remainder of your questions. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.