

Ref. No: FOI0075  
Date: 27/07/23  
Subject: Alzheimer's disease testing.

## REQUEST

### Response for Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust only

For the last 12 months period, please could you provide:

- The number of patients tested for Alzheimer's disease via lumbar puncture  
The Trust does not perform this in Radiology
- The number of patients tested for Alzheimer's disease via PET scan
- The number of patients tested for Alzheimer's disease via SPECT scan
- The number of patients tested for Alzheimer's disease via MRI or CT scans

## RESPONSE

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Section 12 of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

*12. (1) - Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.*

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

To determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to manually conduct a stat search for all exams with Alzheimer's in the clinical history and then manually check this to remove the false positives for example Alzheimer's patient being scanned for another suspected pathology.

The trust also has referrals which are paper based which would need to be individually checked and then reviewed with the clinical history. A simple report cannot be produced.

**Calculation** - The Trust has reviewed this and has calculated the time required to provide this information is in excess of 34 hours

### **Advice and Assistance**

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request.

### **Unable to narrow**

However, as the information is not readily available and the number of attendances so large, it would not be easy to scale down the request in this instance.

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance in this instance.