

Email: foi.tsdf@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10238

15 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

Please provide the following information for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025:

MRI-RELATED

- a) **How many MRI scans were carried out for:**
(Please give the total number of scans performed for each category.)
 - non-specific soft-tissue pain (neck, jaw, shoulder, face, or unspecified)
 - soft-tissue swelling (unspecified)
 - reduced movement without confirmed injury
- b) **How many MRI referrals were:**
 - accepted
 - declined
- c) **for suspected inflammatory or infectious soft-tissue disease?**
(Please give acceptance and rejection numbers.)
- d) **How many MRI scans were approved: *(Please provide totals for each.)***
 - on GP request alone despite minimal or normal findings,
 - after a patient specifically asked for imaging?

HS-RELATED

- a) How many new HS (hidradenitis suppurativa) diagnoses were made by the Trust in this period?**
- b) Of those new HS diagnoses, how many patients received MRI imaging as part of their assessment?**
- c) How many MRI scans were performed for patients with a known or suspected HS diagnosis, regardless of whether HS was confirmed? *(Please provide the total number of scans.)***

The Trust is unable to provide the information requested because it is not recorded in a readily reportable format. For example, to answer part (a) of the MRI-related questions, staff would need to manually review every MRI scan record for the period and assess the clinical information against each category specified. Similar manual review would be required for the remaining requested breakdowns.

The Trust estimates that locating, reviewing and extracting this information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time, set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The information is therefore exempt under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act, you may wish to submit a revised request limited to information that is held in a readily reportable format. For example, you could ask for overall totals recorded by the Trust, without requesting a breakdown by presenting symptoms, clinical findings, the reason an MRI was approved, or whether imaging was requested by a patient, as these elements would require review of individual clinical records. Any revised request would be considered on its own terms, and we cannot guarantee that the information would be held in a reportable format or fall within the appropriate cost limit.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to

make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team