

Date of Report: 22/02/2023

FOI - 7940 - General Anaesthesia Paediatric Dental Wait Times

Question	Notes/Comments	Response					
		Current Waiting List	31/12/2018	31/12/2019	31/12/2020	31/12/2021	31/12/2022
1. Total number of children currently on your waiting lists and for each of the past five years.	<p>The current waiting list number is based on the MKUH elective wait list position as of 19th February 2023, where the patients are under 18 years of age and are waiting for elective surgery under the Oral Surgery specialty.</p> <p>For each of the past five calendar years we have provided a snapshot of the MKUH elective wait list position as of the 31st December each year, where the patients are under 18 years of age as of that date and were waiting for elective surgery under the Oral Surgery specialty.</p>	175	42	84	24	44	143
2. The average waiting time from referral to treatment by year for each of the past five years.	<p>The Trust reports waiting times/list data as per national requirements and for waiting lists, the Trust is obliged to report on incomplete pathways at a specialty/Trust level, but not at an intended procedure level. The Trust reports the number of patients who are waiting at any given moment in time (usually at the end of the month for national reporting); the length of time the patient has waited based on RTT (referral to treatment) rules; the length of time waited at any given moment in time is characterised by the events associated with the patient pathway and these events; the consequential impact can therefore be different for each patient, and there is a significant risk the length of time waited at any given moment in time may be skewed.</p> <p>It is our understanding that the information requested in this particular question is referring to those patients waiting for treatment in particular years and providing a retrospective time taken between the date the patient is referred to the hospital and the date the patient receives their definitive treatment, and providing the average waiting times within this period. As each patient pathway is unique and characterised by the nuances in terms of events in the pathway which could impact the length of time they have waited from when they are referred, providing RTT waiting time over certain amounts of time would be misleading.</p> <p>Furthermore, waiting list data has the intended procedure the patient is due to have and this may not always be the actual final procedure a patient has when they undergo treatment and therefore aligning treatment with waiting list data retrospectively is extremely difficult and fraught with challenges, particularly where a patient may be waiting for multiple and different treatments.</p>						
3. The total number of children currently on the waiting list who have waited more than a) six months b) one year c) 18 months	<p>The elective waiting numbers are based on the position at MKUH as of 19th February 2023, where the patients are under 18 years of age and are waiting for elective surgery under the Oral Surgery specialty.</p> <p>Please note these wait times represent the number of days between the patients' Referral to Treatment period start date and the 19th February 2023.</p> <p>Any patients waiting over 182 days are counted as over 6 months, waiting over 365 days as over 12 months and over 546 days as over 18 months.</p>				Over 6 months	Over 12 Months	Over 18 months
					122	29	0
4. The five longest waits faced by people currently on the waiting list in days.	Provided are the 5 longest waits, in days, from the same set of patients provided in the 'Current Waiting List' section in question 1.	467, 466, 465, 464, 460					