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22nd September 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Prostate Specific Antigen - suspected prostate cancer referral thresholds

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

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FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. Do you have a Urology department who see suspected prostate cancer patients referred from the community? with family history)?	Yes			
2. What criteria are used to triage (Accept or Reject) referrals from the community, for patients with suspected prostate cancer, including Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) thresholds and Digital Rectal Examination (DRE) for asymptomatic patients? Please include specific PSA levels used as well as any other criteria	We accept patients with PSA> age-related threshold (these are available on the 2ww proforma) or those whose PSA breeches previously set thresholds by secondary care following negative investigations, and abnormal DRE. There is no pathway distinction for symptomatic/asymptomatic.			
3. What criteria are used to triage (Accept or Reject) referrals from the community, for patients with suspected prostate cancer, including PSA thresholds and DRE for symptomatic patients? Please include specific PSA levels used as well as any other criteria	Data not held - See answer to Q2			
4. How does your service define symptomatic and asymptomatic for suspected prostate cancer referrals?	There is no pathway distinction for symptomatic/asymptomatic.			
5. Do you apply different thresholds or criteria for higher-risk groups (e.g. Black men, men	No changes to PSA threshold exist for higher risk patients but the pathway does account for higher risk patients post			

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Home, Community, Hospital.

	MRI scan when deciding on the merits of a biopsy - significant family history and ethnicity would favour a biopsy for equivocal scans.			
6. For the calendar year 2025: a) How many patients were referred on the suspected prostate cancer pathway? b) Of these, how many were classified by the referrer (or by your triage) as asymptomatic? c) How many were classified as symptomatic?	a) 444 patients. b) Data not held – There is no pathway distinction for symptomatic/asymptomatic. c) Data not held – There is no pathway distinction for symptomatic/asymptomatic.			
7. For the same period, how many referred patients had their 2WW referral rejected? Please break this down, if possible, by: a) Asymptomatic vs symptomatic b) Rejected primarily due to PSA level below threshold	a) Data not held – This information would only be available from a notes review of which would take a considerable amount of time to obtain. b) Data not held – This information would only be available from a notes review of which would take a considerable amount of time to obtain.			
8. Please provide a copy of your suspected prostate cancer referral form for both asymptomatic and symptomatic patients?	Please see FOI 1498 accompanying document			

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

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