

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-062024-000767

Date: 30/07/2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please could you provide answers to the questions below by email:

1. Do you have a specialist service for long Covid patients within your trust? Please name the clinic/service
2. How many patients in your local NHS area have been referred to the clinic/service to date? Please break down by year to date ie 12 months to this date in 2024 and then each of the previous 12 months back to the start of the service
3. Is the service physician-led?
4. Please provide figures for how many patients referred to the clinic/service received the following type of treatment in-house:
 1. physical rehabilitation – please give details
 2. Graded exercise therapy
 3. CBT or other psychological intervention – please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them
 4. Advice on pacing
 5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 6. drug treatment
 7. other, please specify
1. Does the service have the ability to prescribe medications to long Covid patients for symptoms where appropriate?
2. If so, please list the 3 most common drugs prescribed for long Covid patients by the clinic, with numbers of prescriptions if possible
1. Does the service have the ability to order diagnostic tests and scans?
2. If so please list the 3 most commonly ordered tests/scans/diagnostic questionnaires for long Covid patients by the clinic
3. If not provided in-house, which of the following types of services does the clinic/service refer patients onto or recommend?
 1. physical rehabilitation – please give details
 2. Graded exercise therapy
 3. CBT or other psychological intervention – please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them
 4. Advice on pacing
 5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 6. drug treatment
 7. other, please specify

1. How many staff do you have working in the service FTE (full time equivalent) broken down by job title of:
 - a) doctor
 - b) nurse
 - c) physiotherapist
 - d) occupational therapist
 - e) clinical psychologist/ CBT practitioner / psychotherapist/counsellor
 - f) other, please specify
1. For any doctors employed, please specify their specialism eg GP, cardiologist, neurologist, psychiatrist
2. Is the clinic expected to continue running after 2025?

Response

1. Do you have a specialist service for long Covid patients within your trust? Please name the clinic/service

We did have a long covid service operated until December 2023

2. How many patients in your local NHS area have been referred to the clinic/service to date? Please break down by year-to-date ie 12 months to this date in 2024 and then each of the previous 12 months back to the start of the service

January 2022 - December 2022 365 accepted referrals

January 2023 - December 2023 101 accepted referrals (stopped accepting new referrals from end September 2023 in view of service closing in December 2023)

3. Is the service physician-led?

AHP led supported by respiratory consultant

4. Please provide figures for how many patients referred to the clinic/service received the following type of treatment in-house:

1. Physical rehabilitation – please give details
2. Graded exercise therapy- **some of the patients referred to physiotherapy for breathing pattern retraining also received advice on exercise and some completed tai chi, but unable to determine exact figures**
3. CBT or other psychological intervention – please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them: **n/a**
4. Advice on pacing: **From March 2022 182 patients were referred for OT review for fatigue management- there were more patients prior to this however I do not have access to this information**
5. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which) **n/a**
6. drug treatment: **N/A**
7. other, please specify: **physiotherapy for breathing pattern assessment/retraining 139 patients referred since March 2022**
8. Does the service have the ability to prescribe medications to long Covid patients for symptoms where appropriate? **Yes, respiratory consultant would prescribe medications or advise GP to prescribe**

9. If so, please list the 3 most common drugs prescribed for long Covid patients by the clinic, with numbers of prescriptions if possible: **I do not have access to information**

10. Does the service have the ability to order diagnostic tests and scans?

Ordered by respiratory consultant if indicated

11. If so, please list the 3 most commonly ordered tests/scans/diagnostic questionnaires for long Covid patients by the clinic.

Spirometry/CPET/sleep studies

12. If not provided in-house, which of the following types of services does the clinic/service refer patients onto or recommend?

1) physical rehabilitation – please give details:

Could refer to Pulmonary Rehab or Action Heart (cardiac rehab). Also advised on local leisure centre schemes

1. Graded exercise therapy -

Could refer to Pulmonary Rehab or Action Heart (cardiac rehab). Also advised on local leisure centre schemes

2. CBT or other psychological intervention – please state whether this is to cope with symptoms or with a view to improving/treating them: **referred onto IAPT**

3. Advice on pacing

4. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming - based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)

5. drug treatment

6. other, please specify:

Advice on financial support services and employment support through CAB/DWP

13. How many staff do you have working in the service FTE (full time equivalent) broken down by job title of:

a) doctor –

Consultant (respiratory) supported in Job plan previously for 4 hours per week

b) nurse - **n/a**

c) physiotherapist B6 part time **22.5 hours and FT long covid service lead B7**

d) occupational therapist - **B6 FT**

e) clinical psychologist/ CBT practitioner / psychotherapist/counsellor- **n/a**

f) other, please specify

1 x band 3 administrative assistant 30 hours, 2 x Band 4 Assistant Therapy Practitioners 30 hours and 32 hours

14. For any doctors employed, please specify their specialism eg GP, cardiologist, neurologist, psychiatrist

Respiratory consultant

15. Is the clinic expected to continue running after 2025?

No - clinic discontinued December 2023 now with primary care for ongoing management

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**