

FOI REF: 21/139a

27th April 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1) **What day (DD/MM/YYYY) did your trust's 'long Covid centre/clinic' become operational?**

[East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's long Covid clinic went live on 4th January 2021.](#)

Please could you break down the following information per month between 1 December 2020 and 28 February 2021:

- 1a) **How many (suspected long Covid) patients were referred to this clinic by their GP over this period?**

January 2021	10
February 2021	17
March 2021	31

- 1b) **How many of the (long Covid) patients assessed/seen over this period at your trust's clinic were ones who needed such help after being discharged from hospital?**

Please could you break down the following information between 1 December 2020 and 28 February 2021 (its entirety rather than per month as before):

[There have been a total of 11 referrals from secondary care \(outpatients\).](#)

Cont.../

- 1c) What was the average waiting time (in days) to be seen for long Covid assessment/specialist help at the clinic?**

The Trust only have wait ranges in days at a Sussex level. I can confirm that the median wait time from referral to assessment is 28-34 days, with the total range being from 7 to over 42 days.

- 1d) What was the longest time a person referred to/discharged (from hospital) into the clinic had to (first) wait to be seen in days. For Q1d, if such a person is still waiting to be seen, as of the current day, please say: 'X' (specify number) amount of people are 'still waiting' on the list.**

The longest time a person had to wait after being referred to/discharged (from hospital) was 50 days.

Further to our response of 13th April 2021, we subsequently received the following request from yourself and our reply is detailed below:

In the response for Q1c, it says that "the trust only have wait ranges in days at a Sussex level"- so does this mean the figure range (28-34) applies to the trust generally rather than the Long Covid clinic specifically? Is this also the case for Q1d?

The average wait time for assessment in the Post Covid Assessment service within the Trust is currently 5 weeks.

Also, in terms of Q1d, is the longest time a person had to wait defined from being referred to/discharged (from hospital) to assessment?

The longest time waited is from point of referral – patients referred to our service have not always been admitted and have been looked after in the community therefore we can only use the date of referral as our point.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to Lynette Wells, Director of Corporate Affairs, East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (lynette.wells2@nhs.net) quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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