

## Freedom of Information Act 2000

## The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

FOI Ref No 28377

### Requested Information:

I am submitting a request under the **Freedom of Information Act 2000** regarding the provision of **spirometry services** within **Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust**. I would appreciate details on the following:

#### 1. Service Provision

- a. Does the Trust currently provide spirometry services in-house, or are these services outsourced/insourced to external providers?
- b. If outsourced or insourced, which providers are currently contracted, and under what terms?
- c. What are the eligibility criteria for external providers seeking subcontracting opportunities?

#### 2. Tariff and Payment Model

- a. What is the current tariff for spirometry services under the NHS Payment System?
- b. Is the service funded per test, per patient, or under a block contract arrangement?
- c. Does the Trust claim reimbursement for spirometry under any specific national or local NHS payment schemes?

#### 3. Demand, Capacity, and Backlogs

- a. How many spirometry tests were conducted annually in the last three years?
- b. What is the **current backlog** of patients awaiting spirometry testing?
- c. What is the **average waiting time** from referral to test?
- d. Has the Trust implemented any initiatives to address spirometry service backlogs?

#### 4. Procurement

- a. Who is responsible for commissioning or procuring spirometry services within the Trust, e.g., insourcing, outsourcing or subcontracting spirometry services?
- b. Are there any planned tenders or procurement exercises for spirometry services in the next 12-24 months?
- c. What are the Trust's criteria for **subcontracting spirometry** services to external providers?

#### 5. Key Contact Information

- a. The name, role, telephone number, and email address of the individuals responsible for **spirometry service insourcing, outsourcing, subcontracting, or service management** within the Trust.

If there are any policies or documents relevant to the commissioning or provision of spirometry services, I would appreciate copies or links to them.

## Response:

### 1. Service Provision

- a. Does the Trust currently provide spirometry services in-house, or are these services outsourced/insourced to external providers?
  - **Both delivered in-house and via insourcing**
- b. If outsourced or insourced, which providers are currently contracted, and under what terms?
  - **Your Medical Services Limited via SBS Insourcing of Clinical Services Framework**
- c. What are the eligibility criteria for external providers seeking subcontracting opportunities?
  - **Previous opportunity was open to those on the SBS Insourcing of Clinical Services framework who were able to provide suitably qualified staff with the correct skills to be able to safely deliver the service.**

### 2. Tariff and Payment Model

- a. What is the current tariff for spirometry services under the NHS Payment System?
  - **Details of the published tariff's for 25/26 can be found [NHS England » 2025/26 NHS Payment Scheme](#)**
- b. Is the service funded per test, per patient, or under a block contract arrangement?
  - **Dependent on service delivery, tests delivered through community diagnostic centre are funded per test, tests delivered as part of an outpatient consultation do not get separately funded.**
- c. Does the Trust claim reimbursement for spirometry under any specific national or local NHS payment schemes?
  - **National NHS Payment Scheme**

### 3. Demand, Capacity, and Backlogs

- a. How many spirometry tests were conducted annually in the last three years?
  - **The number of RCHT outpatient appointments with OPCS coded procedures for Spirometry between 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2025 (inclusive) was 2938, where the coded procedure was either E93.2 Spirometry or E94.1 Bronchodilator response to inhaled therapy using Spirometry.**

- b. What is the current backlog of patients awaiting spirometry testing?
  - **There are currently 148 patients awaiting spirometry testing (as of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025)**
- c. What is the average waiting time from referral to test?
  - **The current maximum waiting time for spirometry is 4 weeks.**
- d. Has the Trust implemented any initiatives to address spirometry service backlogs?
  - **Yes, RCHT has introduced independent sector provision**

#### **4. Procurement**

- a. Who is responsible for commissioning or procuring spirometry services within the Trust, e.g., insourcing, outsourcing or subcontracting spirometry services
  - **The Trust does not provide staff members information unless it is already available in the public domain.**
- b. Are there any planned tenders or procurement exercises for spirometry services in the next 12-24 months?
  - **None planned**
- c. What are the Trust's criteria for subcontracting spirometry services to external providers?
  - **Previous opportunity was open to those on the SBS Insourcing of Clinical Services framework who were able to provide suitably qualified staff with the correct skills to be able to safely deliver the service.**

#### **5. Key Contact Information**

- 1. The name, role, telephone number, and email address of the individuals responsible for spirometry service insourcing, outsourcing, subcontracting, or service management within the Trust.
  - **The Trust does not provide staff members information unless it is already available in the public domain. Members of staff and departments can be contacted via the Trust's switchboard: 01872 25 0000**

**If there are any policies or documents relevant to the commissioning or provision of spirometry services, I would appreciate copies or links to them.**

**Attachment(s):**

Appendix One – FOI Ref 28377 Spirometry Clinical Guideline  
(please be advised that this document is currently under review)

Appendix two – FOI Ref 28377 Spirometry Commissioning Guidance  
(please be advised that these are National NHS Guidelines and not specific to Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust)

**Date Response sent: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025**