

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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

**Date Request Received: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

**FOI Ref No 29428**

**Requested Information:**

1. Please provide the total number of patients treated where wound care represented the primary reason for admission, in the financial years:
  - i) 2021-22
  - ii) 2022-23
  - iii) 2023-24
  - iv) 2024-25If available, please provide a breakdown of inpatients compared to outpatients/community visits.
2. Please provide the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff delivering wound care services within your organisation, broken down by professional role (e.g. community nurse, tissue viability nurse, podiatrist), in the financial years:
  - i) 2021-22
  - ii) 2022-23
  - iii) 2023-24
  - iv) 2024-25
3. Please provide the number of Tissue Viability Nurses (TVNs) employed by your Trust, in the financial years:
  - i) 2021-22
  - ii) 2022-23
  - iii) 2023-24
  - iv) 2024-25
4. What is the average waiting time for an initial wound care assessment in the financial years:
  - i) 2021-22
  - ii) 2022-23
  - iii) 2023-24
  - iv) 2024-25
5. What is the average waiting time for a referral to a specialist tissue viability nurse in the financial years:
  - i) 2021-22
  - ii) 2022-23
  - iii) 2023-24
  - iv) 2024-25

6. Please provide the total number of patients referred from A&E or minor injury/urgent care units to any form of wound care service, in the financial years:

- i) 2021-22
- ii) 2022-23
- iii) 2023-24
- iv) 2024-25

Please provide the total number of A&E and minor injury/urgent care unit admissions in each financial year for comparison.

7. If available, please provide a breakdown of the nature of wounds or conditions most commonly referred to wound care services (e.g. pressure ulcers, leg ulcers, post-operative wounds, diabetic foot ulcers, traumatic wounds).

8. Please provide total spend on wound management dressings in the financial years

- i) 2021-2022
- ii) 2022-2023
- iii) 2023-2024
- iv) 2024-2025

### Response:

#### 1. Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (RCHT) Inpatient spells where the primary procedure was 'Exploration of the Skin'

Spell end date between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2025.

Procedure code is one of the codes listed on the second tab – spells counted where the procedure code is in the first primary position.

**Please note:** It is not possible to confirm the reason for the patient admission, only that the primary procedure taking place was one of those listed.

**Definition:** A spell is the total inpatient stay linking the 1<sup>st</sup> Consultant Episode ('Admitting' episode) with the last (final) Consultant Episode ('Discharging' episode).

Financial Year	Number of Spells
2021/22	478
2022/23	485
2023/24	469
2024/25	408
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1840</b>

2.

role	Financial Year - WTE			
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Assistant Practitioner Nursing	1	0.8	0.6	0.6
Nurse Consultant	0.4	0.4	0.4	
Sister or Charge Nurse			1.8	
Sister/Charge Nurse	0.8	1.8		
Specialist Nurse Practitioner				1
Staff Nurse	1			0.91
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.51</b>

3.

role	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Nurse Consultant	0.4	0.4	0.4	
Sister or Charge Nurse			1.8	
Sister/Charge Nurse	0.8	1.8		
Specialist Nurse Practitioner				1
Staff Nurse	1			0.91
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.91</b>

4. Wound care assessments are completed on paper or documented within the nursing notes. There is no specific outpatient clinic for wound management as the team only sees inpatients and there are multiple services (e.g. Fracture Clinic, Mermaid Centre, Dermatology) who have wound clinics. Because of this, the information requested is not held centrally. Manually collating this data would exceed the cost limit. Please see appendix one for more information.
5. As Tissue Viability is an inpatient service, no official appointment is booked. This means that a waiting time can only be calculated by manually checking the referral notes of each patient with an inpatient Tissue Viability service referral for the time periods specified. Doing this would exceed the cost limit. Please see appendix one for more information regarding this.
6. RCHT cannot accurately identify this information within the timeframe as there are multiple wound care services. The tissue viability service is held as an

inpatient service but there are also wound care services conducted in different specialist outpatient departments.

- If you would like to refine your request. RCHT may be able to identify the number of referrals made to the inpatient Tissue viability service from A&E.
7. An educated opinion can be provided, stating that most of the referrals to RCHT's Tissue viability service relate to pressure damage, hard to heal wounds, leg ulcers, post-op surgical wounds and complex wounds. Please be aware that this is not an accurate breakdown of figures as this cannot be provided without going through each individual referral. Doing so would exceed the cost limit. Please see appendix one for more information regarding this exemption.
- 8.
- i) £772,483
  - ii) £845,301
  - iii) £1,108,227
  - iv) £1,704,481

#### Attachment(s):

Appendix one:

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - INFORMATION REQUEST Ref: 29428**

Further to your request for information dated **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**, I can confirm that the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust holds information that falls within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the costs of complying with your request would exceed the cost limit. The cost limit is specified in regulations and for the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust this is set at £450. The cost limit represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 working hours in determining whether the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust hold the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting the information. Consequently, the Trust is not obliged under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to your request, and we will not be processing your request further. **The information you have requested is not held centrally and it would therefore require a manual review to collate this information.**

We have been unable to identify a way to narrow the scope of the manual search that would be required to determine what is being asked. I have therefore estimated that it would exceed the appropriate limit to proceed with your request.

I apologise that we are unable to fully assist you in this instance.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Information Governance Manager, Kedhlow Building, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3LJ or e-mail [rch-tr.FOI@nhs.net](mailto:rch-tr.FOI@nhs.net)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Royal Cornwall Hospital.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**Date Response sent: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025**