

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RF23-220

### Request:

1. Can you please advise why the waiting time after referral and actually getting a face to face meeting after tests is longer than 2 weeks? (referral made by GP in Herne Bay to the 2-week rate, has still not had an answer after over 6 weeks.)
2. What is the average wait in East Kent at the moment for an answer to a Cancer referral

### Response:

We can confirm East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) holds the information you have requested in part.

1. EKHUFT does not hold this information. The Freedom of Information Act defines the 'information' a public authority can be asked to provide, making it clear that it means recorded information held in any form, electronic or paper. Public authorities are not required to create new information in order to comply with a request for information under the Act. They only need to consider information already in existence at the time a request is received.

There may be various reasons for a wait time to be longer than expected, depending on a number of factors, and wait times may vary between specialty. We do not hold an overall reason for wait time being over two weeks.

If you have any concerns over the waiting time that you have experienced personally, we would advise you to contact the PALS team via [ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or by telephone on 01227 783145.

Please also note that requests for your own personal information are exempt under section 40(1) of FOIA.

2. For the week commencing 03/04/23 (date of request) 96.1% of patients were seen within the 14-day timeframe for cancer referrals.

Please note that wait times will vary for each specialty and can change daily.

**(DATE OF RESPONSE: 21 APRIL 2023)**

