



## FOI 2111

Date 11/05/2023

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

**GIRFT released a National Suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome Pathway in February 2023. Implementing the pathway will or may require some service changes:**

1. **How many MRI scanners are within your Trust?** Six
2. **Are these all on a single site?** No, 3 on each of the two main acute hospital sites – Bedford South Wing and L&D University Hospital.
3. **If you have any satellite MRI scanners, are any on a site with an Emergency Department?**  
If yes: how many? N/A
4. **If you have multiple sites, do you plan to provide an on-call MRI service at each site with an ED or only at one main Trust site?** At each site, when possible.
5. **Do you ring-fence CES slots daily?** No specific slots, accommodated as emergencies.  
If yes; how many?
6. **Do you currently provide a 12hour 7/7 MRI service?** Yes, on one site.  
If less; what is provided? Currently 10 hour days on Saturday and Sunday at the second site (increasing when staffing allows).
7. **Do you currently provide CES MRI cover for bank holidays?** Yes
8. **Does your site currently provide a 24 hour CES MRI service?** No  
If no; are CES patients currently referred to a Tertiary centre for OOH MRI? Yes  
If no; do you plan to increase your workforce to implement the 24hr service? We are trying to increase our workforce currently.
9. **Will terms and conditions of employment need to change for your current MRI team to implement the GIRFT pathway?** Yes
10. **How many additional MRI staff will you need to deliver the GIRFT pathway?** To be confirmed, but expected to be at least 2 WTE.
11. **Do your MRI staff work cross modality in CT?** The majority do not, but there are some staff who do.
12. **What numbers of non MRI Radiographers undertake CES MRI?** None.
13. **Do you intend to train all on-call Radiographers to undertake an emergency spine MRI?** No
14. **How do you currently or will you manage MRI safety queries OOH?** Clinical issues referred to on-call radiologist, other safety issues dealt with by radiographers.



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If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust