

16 September 2025

## **Cohort 1 of the Neurology Recall – Assignment of Recall Doctors**

This is a follow-up to your response to FOI/34536 regarding the assignment of consultants to patients in Cohort 1 of the neurology recall. I am requesting the following further information:

- 1. Consultant Assignment and Specialism Matching – What formal process or clinical criteria were used to determine which consultants were assigned to review patients, particularly in relation to matching specialisms to suspected diagnoses (e.g. epilepsy, stroke, MS).**

- Why were some patients with suspected stroke or epilepsy assigned to consultants whose specialism was in other fields (e.g. MS)?**

In advance of recalling patients, a validation exercise was completed. As part of the validation process, the patient’s primary diagnosis was identified. Patients to be recalled were therefore allocated to the consultant with the appropriate specialist expertise.

In circumstances whereby patients had more than one diagnosis identified, their condition and entire treatment pathway was reviewed as part of their consultation. Consultant Neurologists have expertise in managing neurological conditions. In a situation whereby a patient had a complex presentation or diagnosis, if required, an onward referral was made to another Consultant with that specialist expertise.

- 2. Consultant Allocation Numbers - please provide a breakdown (consultant names can be anonymised if necessary) of how many Cohort 1 patients each consultant was assigned.**

A total of 2,492 appointments were attended.

	<b>Number of Patients</b>			<b>Number of Patients</b>
Consultant A	60		Consultant M	19
Consultant B	27		Consultant N	35
Consultant C	3		Consultant O	132
Consultant D	3		Consultant P	21
Consultant E	31		Consultant Q	27
Consultant F	109		Consultant R	27
Consultant G	14		Consultant S	50
Consultant H	351		Consultant T	53
Consultant I	22		Consultant U	80
Consultant J	31		Consultant V	30
Consultant K	40		Consultant W	58
Consultant L	63		Consultants IS*	1206

\*Multiple Consultants provided by Independent Sector providers.

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It is important to note that some patients were reviewed by more than one consultant.

**3. Internal Correspondence - please provide any internal documentation (emails, meeting notes, etc.) discussing:**

**a) The assignment or selection process for consultants**

The only discussions about the assignment of patients related to how many patients had been identified for specific neurological conditions, i.e. such as how many patients had MS, Epilepsy. Patients were allocated according to their primary diagnosis that was completed as part of the validation process.

**b) Any concerns raised internally about specialism mismatches**

There were no concerns raised about specialism mismatches.

**c) Steps taken to ensure neutrality and avoid conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were identified.

**4. Oversight by External Bodies - was the assignment process reviewed or influenced by any external organisations (e.g. Department of Health, RQIA, PSNRAG)? If so, please provide any communications or documents reflecting this.**

The assignment process was neither reviewed nor influenced by any external organisation. However, the Department of Health were aware of the process being followed to ensure that all patients were reviewed to confirm that they were on the correct clinical pathway.