

18 May 2026

## **Breast Reconstruction Services following Mastectomy for Breast Cancer**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding breast reconstruction services following mastectomy for breast cancer within your Trust.

I am conducting research into regional variation in access to breast reconstruction services across the UK and would be grateful for the following information for the most recent available year (or the last 3 years if easier to provide):

1. Does your Trust directly provide breast reconstruction surgery for patients undergoing mastectomy for breast cancer?

Yes.

2. If breast reconstruction is not provided within your Trust, to which centre(s) or organisation(s) are patients referred?

N/A.

3. Which types of breast reconstruction are available to patients within your Trust or via formal referral pathways?

- **Implant-based reconstruction**- Yes.
- **Latissimus dorsi flap** –Yes.
- **DIEP flap** – Yes.
- **Other autologous flap reconstruction (please specify if possible)**  
TUG.

4. Are there any formal eligibility criteria, thresholds, or policies governing access to breast reconstruction (including immediate and delayed reconstruction), such as:

- **Limits on number or type of revision procedures**- No.
- **Time limits for revision procedures** – No.
- **BMI thresholds** - BMI of 35.
- **Smoking cessation requirements** - for implant based reconstruction, the recommendation is to stop for 6 weeks in the immediate setting.
- **Diabetes control requirements** – Yes.
- **Comorbidity-related exclusions** – Yes.
- **Any other access criteria**  
**please provide copies of any relevant written policies or guidance where available** – non available – discussed with patients at review clinic.

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**5. Is surgery on the contralateral (non-cancer) breast for the purpose of achieving symmetry (e.g. reduction, augmentation, mastopexy) routinely available?**

Yes.

**6. What is the average waiting time for:**

- **Immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy –**  
4-6 weeks ideally following decision to proceed.
- **Delayed breast reconstruction following mastectomy –**  
4-6 years.

**7. Approximately how many patients per year are referred outside your Trust for breast reconstruction services?**

None.