

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference: FOI-1305**

**Subject: Spirometry**

Request :		
Spirometry is recommended by NICE guidelines for the diagnosis of both COPD and asthma, however there are huge backlogs and geographical inequalities to accessing spirometry. Spirometry was paused in primary care during the pandemic, and four years on, some areas have still not restarted spirometry, although no comprehensive data is available on this issue.		<b>BLMK ICB Response</b>
1.	How many people in your ICS are waiting for a spirometry test	6184 (July 2024).
2.	How many spirometry referral requests were received in your ICS in the last financial year	This figure is not known.
3.	How many spirometry tests were performed in your ICS in the last financial year	1557 spirometry were carried out in primary care during the financial year 2023/24.
4.	Is the volume of spirometry currently available enough to meet the demand of new referrals and to address any backlog? Enough to meet the demands of new referrals only? Not enough to meet the demand of new referrals	It is estimated that the average annual number of people requiring diagnostic testing across BLMK is 1,600 per year.

5.	How is spirometry commissioned in primary care across the ICS	Spirometry is a service included in BLMK ICBs Primary Care Framework. The framework is designed to offer patients care close to home and therefore spirometry is commissioned as one element of the framework . Practices and or PCNs receive funding for services provided.
6.	What are the barriers the ICB is facing to commissioning spirometry	<p>Capacity in primary care to manage patient demand for diagnostic tests.</p> <p>Skills and capacity in Primary Care to offer diagnostic tests for children and young people.</p> <p>Capacity within secondary care to also stretched to manage patient demand for diagnostic tests.</p>

**The above information is correct at: 31/12/2024**