



## Resolution

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 9SZ  
**Telephone:** 020 7811 2700

February 2021  
FOI\_4907

Thank you for your email of 3 January 2021 in which you requested the following data from the Practitioner Performance Advice service:

*"I am researching disciplinary activities for surgeons and have the following questions I would politely ask for information for. I have lifted this from a previous reply you conducted for an anaesthetic query. Thanking you in anticipation.*

- 1. 'How many referrals [the Advice service] has had generally and more specifically for surgeons for practitioner performance issues over the last 5 years?' 2015-2020*
- 2. 'Of these referrals was there any gender/ age/ IMG bias?'*

**We have considered this request under the Freedom of Information Act and our response to your request is as follows:**

*You asked, "how many referrals [the Advice service] has had generally and more specifically for surgeons for practitioner performance issues over the last 5 years? 2015-2020"*

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (financial years) we received new requests for advice in relation to 4,348 practitioners. The term 'practitioner' covers doctors (who make up the substantial majority of cases), dentists and pharmacists. 821 of these practitioners were in the 'surgical group', which covers all surgical specialities.

In responding to your request, we wish to bring to your attention that the number of new requests for advice in relation to practitioners is different to those outlined in our previous FOI response dated 27 April 2020, which you refer to ([found here](#)). In responding to your latest request and considering the data we hold afresh, we note that that our previous response did not include all the practitioners who were the subject of requests for advice during the relevant time period. As such, we apologise that that this specific item of information was incorrect, and would be grateful if you could please treat the figure now supplied as accurate. We would like to assure you that the figures we share here are now accurate following an internal review. Please do again accept our apologies.

*You asked, "of these referrals was there any gender/ age/ IMG bias?"*

Please find the breakdown of practitioners by gender, age, and primary place of qualification below for all practitioners for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 based on information held by Practitioner Performance Advice. The second column contains data for all practitioners for the period stated, and the third column for surgeons. Please note that 'unknown' indicates that the information for a particular characteristic was not disclosed to Practitioner Performance Advice.

Please note that this is the raw data, and does not include any wider relevant demographic information that may be available for comparison.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of Practitioners</b>	<b>Number of Surgeons</b>
Male	3150	722
Female	1020	97
Unknown	178	2

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number of Practitioners</b>	<b>Number of Surgeons</b>
20-29	129	24
30-39	466	73
40-49	1068	225
50-59	994	203
60+	484	85
Unknown	1207	211

<b>Place of Primary Qualification*</b>	<b>Number of Practitioners</b>	<b>Number of Surgeons</b>
UK	2024	375
EEA	435	99
Elsewhere	1637	334
Unknown	252	13

**This concludes our response to your request.**

We hope this above information is helpful.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Tinku Mitra](#), Head of Corporate and Information Governance for NHS Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner's Office is:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/>