

Ref: FOI/00125/CMICB  
18 November 2022

**Your Request:**

**Please include the information for each of the following financial years;  
2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22:**

- 1) The number of patients within the remit of the ICB (previously CCG) who have had to be sent to an external, or alternative MRI machine due to the patient being overweight**
- 2) The annual cost of using these alternative or external MRIs**
- 3) Where the MRIs are (for example, at specialist hospitals)**

**Our Response:**

Please be advised that NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB holds data on the number of patients who have had MRI scans and where these were undertaken. However, the data held does not detail the reason for the patient having the MRI undertaken (i.e. due to their weight) or whether it was an alternative to the MRI facilities they would have usually been referred to enable us to provide you with the information requested. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB also does not hold information listing MRI facilities that are specifically for patients who may be overweight.

For information, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does hold data on the number of Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) received for patients to access MRI facilities outside of the patient's geographical CCG area, due to the local MRI facilities not being appropriate for them.

During the 2018/19 financial year there were two such IFR requests received. No such IFR requests received during 2019/20 financial year. During the 2020/21 financial year there were two such IFR requests received and during the 2021/22 financial year one such IFR request received. Please find listed below the providers of the MRI facilities in respect of these five IFR requests:

- *European Scanning Centre Manchester.*
- *Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.*
- *Blackpool Teaching Hospital.*
- One provider not identified.