

Our Ref: 67385

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## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding MRI scans within NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

### Request/Response:

1. On what date did the South Sefton Commissioning Trust changed the practice of GPs being able to refer patients directly for MRI scans?

[NHS Southport and Formby CCG has not commissioned direct access MRI for GPs.](#)

2. What is the rationale or basis for the exception ie. imaging [MRI] only being commissioned by GP practices where patients present with red flags or concerns of serious underlying pathology and require urgent management?

[This was introduced to ensure that patients accessed diagnostics at the appropriate part of the commissioned pathway based on clinical effectiveness.](#)

3. What is the annual financial saving by South Sefton Commissioning Trust since they introduced the practice of GP's not referring patients for MRI scans directly but only via a third party?

[N/A - there was no cost saving as access was not reduced.](#)

4. To what use was the saving put eg was it redeployed for other services within the Trust?
5. Whether the change in practice has reduced the number of MRI scans being conducted in the area covered by the Trust?
6. Whether any complaints have been made to the Trust since the change in practice, as a consequence of delayed diagnoses of serious illness eg cancer, due to not being referred for an MRI in a timely manner?

[For questions 4-6 – N/A](#)