



**Wirral**

**Clinical Commissioning Group**

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## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

### **You Asked for:**

I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to ask whether your CCG (/any of the CCGs you are responsible for managing the FOI requests of) employs a maximum BMI restriction on any type of surgery or procedure, ie prevents a patient with a BMI over a certain number from having certain types of surgery. Please provide me with the following information:

- 1) Do you, or have you at any point since 2010, employed a maximum BMI limit above which someone is not allowed to have a procedure? (please specify whether still in force and, if not, when it was introduced and ended)

IF

YES:

- 2) What is the BMI limit?
- 3) To which procedures does this apply (for example, routine hip and knee surgery, breast reduction, cataract removal)- please list all types of procedure where a BMI limit is in force.

How many people have been stopped from having a procedure because their BMI was too high since the restriction came into force? Please also break this information down by calendar year.

### **Our Response:**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group does not have an overarching policy relating to BMI for surgical procedures however, there are some procedures listed within our Procedures of Lower Clinical Priority that do require a set BMI to be met to be eligible for surgery (<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/about-us/policies/procedures-of-low-clinical-priority/>).

This includes BMI criteria for:

- Reduction mammoplasty – BMI <25
- Augmentation mammoplasty – BMI <25
- Apronectomy – BMI <25

- Body Contouring – Not routinely commissioned however available via Individual Funding Request in exceptional cases; BMI <25
- Hip and Knee replacement – BMI <40

Unfortunately, we do not hold the data to demonstrate how many patients have been unable to have each procedure due to BMI. Often this is discussed with the patient in primary care and a referral will not be made if the patient is not eligible. Patients will be offered advice and support to enable them to reduce their BMI.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

Yours sincerely

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