

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our reference: MGLA210122-2158

Date: 8 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 20 January 2022. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

1. *How many clinically extremely vulnerable people are there in London?*
2. *How many CEVs in each London borough?*
3. *Will clinically extremely vulnerable people be exempt from future charges for LFT kits?*
4. *If not, will you and your team be able to assist us in obtaining our LFT kits?*

Please find below the information we hold within the scope of your request:

1 How many clinically extremely vulnerable people are there in London?

The number of clinically extremely vulnerable people in London is clinically determined by GPs and other clinicians. The data on this is held within the NHS rather than the GLA. The definition of who is/has been designated as clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 infection has changed over the course of the pandemic and the numbers will fluctuate with things like new diagnoses and deaths. The definition of vulnerability is also impacted by the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination at protecting people from serious infection and risk of death, as well as the severity of the virus strain in circulation.

The designation of being 'clinically extremely vulnerable' was made when there was a shielding policy in place. There is publicly available data on the number of people on the 'Shielded Patient List'. This data set was last updated on 7 October 2021, with data up to the 30 September 2021. This dataset can be found here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/shielded-patient-list-open-data-set>

As at 30 September 2021 there were 644,555 patients in London on the Shielded Patient List.

This dashboard produced by NHS Digital included patients who were previously identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) due to a combination of individual characteristics and pre-existing health conditions, and at high risk of serious illness or death from coronavirus. It was designed for the NHS and partner organisations across government to support and protect those who needed shielding at the time. The population groups included were:

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- All previously identified clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients as categorised by a GP or a hospital doctor registered in England.
- All previously identified CEV patients in England as categorised using the version of the clinical methodology at the date when the Shielded Patient List was extracted:
<https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list/methodology>
- All previously identified CEV patients in England as categorised in the [COVID-19 Population Risk Assessment](https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/risk-assessment/population): <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/risk-assessment/population>

The website identifies some patients who were not included in the dataset, including for example patients who specifically asked to be removed from the Shielded Patient List.

2 How many CEVs in each London borough?

As per the response under point 1) above, this data is held by the NHS rather than the GLA. The public dataset referred to under point 1) contains borough-level data on the number of patients on the Shielded Patient List.

See here for more information:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mi-english-coronavirus-covid-19-shielded-patient-list-summary-totals/latest>

As under point 1) the latest available data is from 30 September 2021, where the numbers of patients on the Shielded Patient List by London borough were:

London Borough	Patient count
Barking and Dagenham	16950
Barnet	24340
Bexley	16130
Brent	31685
Bromley	19010
Camden	15615
Croydon	28870
Ealing	34035
Enfield	21960
Greenwich	18840
Hackney and City of London	20195
Hammersmith and Fulham	14045
Haringey	19455
Harrow	20875
Havering	15450
Hillingdon	23415
Hounslow	28490
Islington	14835
Kensington and Chelsea	10510
Kingston upon Thames	9600
Lambeth	24220
Lewisham	22100

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London Borough	Patient count
Merton	13330
Newham	32505
Redbridge	21970
Richmond upon Thames	10320
Southwark	25445
Sutton	12455
Tower Hamlets	25135
Waltham Forest	17850
Wandsworth	18110
Westminster	16805
LONDON total	644550

3 Will clinically extremely vulnerable people be exempt from future charges for LFT kits?

This information is not held by the GLA.

This will be a decision for national Government not the Mayor of London.

4 If not, will you and your team be able to assist us in obtaining our LFT kits?

The future national policy on potential charging for LFT kits is currently unknown. The Mayor will advocate to ensure the needs of clinically extremely vulnerable people are met, including advocacy for free LFT kits where required.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA210122-2158

Yours sincerely


Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>