

12 January 2022

Breast Unit
Royal United Hospital
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www.ruh.nhs.uk

Dear Colleague,

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Breast Cancer Referral Delays at the RUH

We are writing to provide an update on the Breast Unit at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust. We have seen a significant increase in referrals to the Unit in recent months in addition to a continuation of Covid-19 related staffing challenges.

As a result, patients are waiting approximately 3 weeks, **with some patients waiting up to 4 weeks**. We apologise for any concern this may cause. We are continuing to triage patients upon receiving referrals and those assessed as likely to have cancer are invited for an urgent radiological assessment, which has a shorter wait time than described above.

We would really appreciate your support during this time in helping your patients understand that they may wait longer than two weeks for their first appointment.

We will write to you again to inform you of our progress.

Miss Nicky Laurence
Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon
and Breast Unit Co-Clinical Lead

Dr Georgina Devenish
Consultant Radiologist
and Breast Unit Co-Clinical Lead

