

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 20-279**

12 January 2021

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some the information you are requesting

**1) Please could you state how many patients were discharged to care homes after a positive Covid-19 test between March 17th and April 16th 2020**

We do not hold this information in a way that would allow us to produce a report to respond to your request for information. Our systems record the address of patients as 'usual place of residence', but do not record centrally as to what 'type' this residence is, e.g. care home or private home.

In order to respond to your request we would have to manually trawl for this information and we estimate it would take longer than the allowable time as laid out in Section 12 of the FOIA which states that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are not releasing this information at this time.

**2) Please could you state how many patients were discharged to care homes without being tested for Covid-19 between March 17th and April 16th 2020**

As explained above we do not centrally record the 'type' of residence in our patient information system to differentiate between a residential home and any other, and in order to respond to your request we would have to manually trawl for this information and we estimate it would take longer than the allowable time as laid out in Section 12 of the FOIA which states that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are not releasing this information at this time.

**3) Please could you state how many patients were discharged to care homes with a negative test for Covid-19 between March 17th and April 16th 2020**

As explained above we do not centrally record the 'type' of residence in our patient information system to differentiate between a residential home and any other, and in order to respond to

your request we would have to manually trawl for this information and we estimate it would take longer than the allowable time as laid out in Section 12 of the FOIA which states that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are not releasing this information at this time.

**(4) Please state whether you have reviewed any of these discharges between March 17th and April 16th to check if they led to any further transmission of Covid-19. If so, please state the number that were recorded as leading to further transmission.**

A review of discharges between these dates has not taken place. Please note that before April 15th the national guidance was not to test patients for COVID-19 before discharge to a care home. That national guidance was updated on April 16th with the move to a policy of testing all patients being discharged to care homes from hospital, and the Trust has followed this guidance throughout the pandemic. All referral forms for discharges to care homes include the patient's current COVID information (i.e patient symptomatic or asymptomatic), plus whether they had been on a ward with COVID-positive patients.

**5) Please provide a copy of any reports in which the trust's discharge of patients to care homes during the March 17th to April 16th 2020 is analysed in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

We do not hold this information.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**