

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-029

8 February 2023

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 do hold the information you are requesting

Please provide me with the following information from your trust. In all references to years I am asking for the information from the entire calendar year (January to December inclusive).

1. The total number of deaths considered more likely than not to have occurred due to problems in care in the trust for each quarter for which records are available

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides 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 withholding this information at this time.

2. The highest number of days of delayed discharge in your trust in of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

3. The longest waiting time recorded in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for a patient to receive the result of each of the following diagnostic tests:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging test (MRI)**
- Echocardiogram**
- Non-obstetric ultrasound**

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

4. The longest period of time that a patient spent on a waiting list for a non urgent operation in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. For each year, please also include, if possible, which category of operation is concerned.

2018 Endoscopy

2019 Paediatric Medicine

2020 Endoscopy

2021 Paediatric Nephrology

2022 Upper GI Surgery

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

5. The numbers of patients removed from outpatient or elective care waiting lists with a removal reason of death, for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Year removed	elective admission list records	Outpatient list records
2018	155	6583
2019	226	5993
2020	282	7135
2021	288	9271
2022	655	9895

In part 1, if these numbers are only available for patients who have not been identified as having learning disabilities, that is acceptable. The request is based on this announcement by the Department of Health and Social Care, and the 'Learning from Deaths Dashboard' template announced by NHS England.

In part 4, I recognise that it is not possible to determine the cause of death of the patient. That is not what I am requesting.

For all parts of this request, if the data to the end of 2022 is not available, then please

include as much of the year as possible.

If the trust experienced any merger in the timeframes required, please include if possible the results for the separate defunct trusts before the merger, and then the results for the new trust.

Please note: This does not include data from Weston General Hospital pre-merger (before April 2020) due to the data being held on a different system and would involve a manual trawl - Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides 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 withholding this information at this time.

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:

Data Protection Officer
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

