

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-428

4 July 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

1. Why you tolerate people openly smoking within your grounds when you declare these to be smoke-free?

Totally appreciate that it may appear this way, but we have implemented many actions since we first went smoke free. It has been extremely difficult to stop patients who, although may go outside, are still in remarkably close proximity to doorways, open windows or ventilation intake systems. Staff may be just as challenging on this topic and when approached will often say they were not aware of trust policy. We have enquired about the use of body cameras to identify staff however have been told this cannot be permitted

2. How many complaints you have received this year about people smoking within your grounds?

Eight.

3 What steps you intend to take to stop people smoking in your grounds, and when you intend to do so?

Engagement with managers to speak to staff members regarding reminders of the requirement to follow policy if they wish to smoke e.g. leave the grounds and totally cover uniform. The use of internal notice boards and electronic trust circulations will continue. Stop smoking services within Occupational Health remain available to all staff. Walkabout inspections to include senior management are to be introduced. Prior to the pandemic we were considering the installation of a tannoy system with an added benefit of being able to be manually activated by anyone. This is something that we can revisit for our main entrance to evaluate its effectiveness prior to further purchases. Overall, the implementation of a no-smoking policy remains as 'everyone's responsibility' as this is not within the role expectation of our security officers. Many staff have fed back that they do not feel comfortable approaching smokers. The policy is currently under review and we are consulting with other trust to identify what has worked/what has not as almost every other trust I speak to report similar issues

I am unsure if this totally alleviates the concerns you have raised but please do not think we are not doing anything to address this. Disciplinary procedures may need to be considered for staff members but it is very difficult to withhold the provision of a healthcare service to patients who fail to observe our policy.

Can you please also give me an email address for Eugene Yafele.

eugene.yafele@uhbw.nhs.uk

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
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust