

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-803

20 November 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) The number of Serious Incidents declared for the last five financial years and for 2023/24 so far - by year and type

517

Types of incidents are as below:

Pressure ulcer

Slips/trips/falls

Diagnostic incident

Treatment delay

HCAI/Infection Control

Surgical/invasive procedure

Sub-optimal care of the deteriorating patient

Medication incident

Maternity/obstetric incident

Medical equipment/devices/disposables

Confidential information leak/information governance breach

Apparent/actual/suspected self-inflicted harm

Major incident/emergency preparedness, resilience and response/suspension of services

Screening issues

Failure to obtain appropriate bed

Adverse media coverage or public concern

Blood product/transfusion

Accident e.g. collision/scald

VTE

Disruptive/aggressive/violent behaviour

2) The date of Serious Incident declarations, the corresponding Incident Date and the

correspond reported date for the last five financial years and for 2023/24 so far

Please see the attached document.

Please note the incident date may differ from the date the incident came to light or was confirmed to meet serious incident criteria following a fact-finding exercise. There are no serious incidents declared beyond 1st July 2023 when we transferred to the new national Patient Safety Incident Response Framework.

3) The number of de-escalations (Serious Incidents that have been declared and then agreed not a serious incident with commissioners) for the last five financial years and for 2023/24 so far - by month and year and type

31 - we cannot provide the dates of the downgrades.

Types of downgrades:

Surgical/invasive procedure

Treatment delay

Slips/trips/falls

Sub-optimal care of a deteriorating patient

HCAI/Infection Control

Medication incident

Maternity/obstetric incident

Pressure ulcer

Diagnostic incident

Confidential information leak/information governance breach

There are no serious incidents declared beyond 1st July 2023 when we transferred to the new national Patient Safety Incident Response Framework.

4) The number of reported patient safety incidents for the last five financial years and for 2023/24 so far – by month and year, type and harm level

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/organisation-patient-safety-incident-reports/> Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information if it is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

5) The number of other reported incidents for the last five financial years and for 2023/24 so far - by month and year, type and harm level

Please see the attached document.

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of

information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

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.

Please also note the following:

We have provided a summary of all incidents that are not marked in our reporting system as being reported to the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS), and therefore are assumed to be non-patient safety incidents.

'unexpected deaths' in most recent months will currently be unvalidated as enquiries are ongoing.

Incidents counted are non-rejected, all categories, or not reported to the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS).

Harm level is the Degree of Harm recorded on our reporting system.

6) The Trusts incident reporting systems such as DatixWeb, DatixCloud, In Phase, Radar, Ulysses or other (please name)

Datix

7) Number of beds (base number) in the Trust

1132

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**