

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 20-257B

13 August 2020

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. Could I please get the number of patients untested for coronavirus who have been discharged from Weston General Hospital into care homes since the start of March? Could I also please get that figure broken down for each month since the start of March?**

Before April 15th the national guidance was not to test patients for Covid-19 before discharge to a care home. The national guidance was updated on April 16th with the move to a policy of testing all patients being discharged to care homes from hospital. Imminent discharges were already in progress as this was rolled out. All referral forms for discharges to care homes included the patient's current Covid information (i.e patient symptomatic or asymptomatic), plus whether they had been on a ward with Covid-positive patients.

March 2020: 41

April 2020: 23

May 2020: 0

June 2020: 0

- 2. Could I please get the number of Covid-19-positive patients who have been discharged from Weston General Hospital into care homes since the start of March? Could I also please get that figure broken down for each month since the start of March?**

March 2020: Not applicable. National guidance did not require testing at this time.

April 2020: 2 (care homes informed and accepted. Appropriate PPE sent with the patients).

May 2020: 2 (care homes informed and accepted. Appropriate PPE sent with the patients).

June 2020: 0

- 3. Could I please get the number of patients untested for coronavirus who have been discharged from Bristol Royal Infirmary into care homes since the start of March? Could I also please get that figure broken down for each month since the start of March?**

Before April 15th the national guidance was not to test patients for Covid-19 before discharge to a care home. The national guidance was updated on April 16th with the move to a policy of testing all patients being discharged to care homes from hospital. Imminent discharges were already in progress as this was rolled out. All referral forms for discharges to care homes included the patient's current Covid information (i.e patient symptomatic or asymptomatic), plus whether they had been on a ward with Covid-positive patients.

March 2020: 66

April 2020: 51

May 2020: 2 (Patient 1 was admitted from a care home into a short stay assessment area and discharged back to the care home the same day. Patient 2 was not tested due to their severe agitation. The care home was informed before discharge and accepted the patient.)

June 2020: 1 (Following a medical risk assessment relating to the patient's condition it was decided that it would not be appropriate to test this patient. The care home was informed before discharge and accepted the patient.)

- 4. Could I please get the number of Covid-19-positive patients who have been discharged from Bristol Royal Infirmary into care homes since the start of March? Could I also please get that figure broken down for each month since the start of March?**

March 2020: Not applicable. National guidance did not require testing at this time.

April 2020: 2 (care homes informed and accepted. Appropriate PPE sent with the patients).

May 2020: 0

June 2020: 1 (care home informed and accepted the patient. Appropriate PPE sent with the patient).

Please find below a media statement relating to this FOI enquiry:

Carolyn Mills, chief nurse at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, said:

“Throughout the pandemic we have followed national guidance in relation to testing our inpatients prior to discharge.

“As the pandemic has progressed, a better understanding about the Covid-19 infection and its transmission has resulted in national guidance that has been reviewed and revised as necessary.

“We have, and continue to, follow the national guidance and work closely with our health and social care partners to ensure our patients are discharged safely.”

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

FOI Team
UH Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust