

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: UHB 20-258

18 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 hold some the information you are requesting

- 1. How many medical staff were working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. If it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments (I do not know if you hold a separate register for Covid and non-Covid).**

The Trust has been following the Public Health England national guidance for the wearing of respiratory protective equipment and FFP3 respirators would have been worn in the high risk areas where aerosol generated procedures were undertaken.

We do not keep central records for the type of staff that are fit tested, this is held locally by department managers and to collate this information would take more than 18 hours making it exempt for release under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We do have the total number of staff fit tested during this period (5,258):

- February 2020 - 67
- March 2020 - 2,584
- April 2020 - 2,296
- May 2020 - 311

We are also able to provide the Trusts usage of FFP3 masks between May and July (62,681):

- May 2020 - 37,129
- June 2020 - 13,872
- July 2020 - 11,680

- 2. How many of the medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in Covid-affected environments were fit-tested for that equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. Again, if it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments.**

We do not keep central records for the type of staff that are fit tested or the department they work in, this is held locally by department managers and to collate this information would take more than 18 hours making it exempt for release under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If the data is sensitive enough to show where the same staff were fit-tested multiple times, please include that information.

We do not keep central records for the number of times staff are fit tested, this is held locally by department managers and to collate this information would take more than 18 hours making it exempt for release under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- 3. Do you collect data on medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment being fit-tested when they change brand/type of RPE? If so, please give the figures for Feb, March, April and May 2020 as above.**

We do not keep central records for the type of staff that are fit tested, this is held locally by department managers and to collate this information would take more than 18 hours making it exempt for release under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- 4. Do you track the ethnicity of the staff member with this data? If so, please give the ethnicity breakdowns for the above data for all questions.**

We do not keep central records for the ethnicity of staff that are fit tested, this is held locally by department managers and to collate this information would take more than 18 hours making it exempt for release under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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