

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 20-343

16 December 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 some of the information you are requesting

1) Between 01/02/2020 to 01/07/2020, how many patients were discharged from hospitals run by your Trust into care homes? Please provide a weekly breakdown.

We do not hold this information in a way that would allow us produce a report to respond to your request for information. Our systems record the patients address as 'usual place of residence', but do not recorded centrally as to what 'type' this residence is, e.g. care home or private home.

In order to respond to your request we would have to manually trawl for this information and we estimate it would take longer than the allowable time as laid out in Section 12 of the FOIA which states 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 not releasing this information at this time.

2) Of those patients who were discharged into care homes in the specified period, how many were tested for COVID-19 prior to leaving hospital? Please provide a weekly breakdown.

As explained above we do not centrally record the 'type' of residence in our patient information system to differentiate between a residential home and any other, and in order to respond to your request we would have to manually trawl for this information and we estimate it would take longer than the allowable time as laid out in Section 12 of the FOIA which states 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 not releasing this information at this time.

3) Finally, please tell me how many tested positive but were nonetheless discharged into care homes. Please provide a weekly breakdown.

As explained above we do not centrally record the 'type' of residence in our patient information

system to differentiate between a residential home and any other, and in order to respond to your request we would have to manually trawl for this information and we estimate it would take longer than the allowable time as laid out in Section 12 of the FOIA which states 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 not releasing this information at this time.

Please note that before April 15th the national guidance was not to test patients for Covid-19 before discharge to a care home. That national guidance was updated on April 16th with the move to a policy of testing all patients being discharged to care homes from hospital, and the Trust has followed this guidance throughout the pandemic. All referral forms for discharges to care homes include the patient's current Covid information (i.e patient symptomatic or asymptomatic), plus whether they had been on a ward with Covid-positive patients.

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**