

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 20-569

28 January 2021

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

Please can you tell me how many cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 the trust has had since 1st March 2020.

Please state the date the case was discovered, the name of the hospital and the ward/department where the patient was, the outcome for the patient (i.e. recovered, died), and whether any staff were also affected (if so, please state how many and the area of the hospital where they work).

The Trust does hold this data but it would take too long to go into the level of detail requested and in some cases the numbers are so small that they could lead to the identification of a patient if the level of detail requested was provided. 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 we have assessed that this request would exceed that. Therefore we are not disclosing this information at this time.

However, in the spirit of the FOIA, the Trust is able to provide the following information: Please find below the figure for each month of infections which were either probable or definite hospital onset:

Month 2020	Hospital Onset – Probable	Hospital Onset – Definite
	Sample 8-14 days after admission	Sample 15+ days after admission
March	*	11
April	10	24
May	45	40
June	*	*
July	*	*

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. (Section 40 is the exemption for personal information).

With regards to the outcome, in the majority of cases patients were discharged on clinical advice or with clinical consent.

There was a COVID-19 outbreak at Weston General Hospital which meant the hospital was temporarily closed to admissions on 25 May 2020 and fully reopened on 18 June 2020. Further information is publicly available at <https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/p/latest-news/findings-of-the-investigation-into-the-outbreak-of-covid-19-at-weston-general-h>

With regards, to staffing absences, there are reported via the link below <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/>

Please also include any information that was shared with Public Health England on these cases.

We have not provided the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

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