

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-222

17 May 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 do hold the information you are requesting

A) Have you instructed external lawyers for advice about how your hospital has performed since March 2020? (If possible, please restrict this advice to Covid related matters and if you are able, describe the issue that the advice was sought. for example death of patient or guidance over treatment of patients with disabilities).

The Trust has instructed external lawyers for advice in relation to the following since March 2020:

- Visitation restrictions
- The use of face coverings by patients and visitors
- Hospital acquired COVID-19

B) Have you paid for an "expert independent external opinion" since March 2020? (if you are able, please say the issue that this related to, for example, care of people with disabilities during Covid19).

The Trust legal team have not paid for expert independent external opinion in relation to COVID-19 related issues.

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**