

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 21-358

30 June 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

I would like to know the number of deaths whereby covid-19 is the sole cause of death listed, where there were no other pre existing conditions or comorbidities noted on the death certificate, covering the period march 2020 until the present day. And are you able to tell me the average age of the deceased?

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

I would also like to know the number of cycles you have been using on the PCR test as standard.

The Trusts laboratories have a number of assays in use for undertaking polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and each assay may have a slightly different limit of detection rate. The Trust complies with individual manufactures guidelines.

For further information on understanding cycle threshold's in PCR testing please see the governments website:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/926410/Understanding_Cycle_Threshold_Ct_in_SARS-CoV-2_RT-PCR_.pdf

For your information through the Office of National Statistics (ONS) [Covid-19 Infection survey](#) The ONS states there has been no sample which has been positive with a CT Value above 37, with the exception of one.

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