

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 21-662**

11 January 2022

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

**1) Please could you provide me with the number of A&E admissions relating to so-called "injection-spiking" in 2021, by month? Of these, how many patients had tests taken for toxicology and what were the outcomes? If possible, please can you break this down into types of test (e.g. blood/urine/hair), length of time since incident ("within 12hrs", "within 24hrs" and "within 72hrs"), demographic of patient and type of drug found (if any).**

Month	ED Attendances
Jan-21	0
Feb-21	0
Mar-21	0
Apr-21	*
May-21	*
Jun-21	*
Jul-21	*
Aug-21	17
Sep-21	11
Oct-21	55
Nov-21	56
Dec-21	36

Sex	ED Attendances
Male	39
Female	148

Age	ED Attendances
Under 18	*
18 to 30	170
31 to 50	14
51+	0

NOTE: We are unable to accurately differentiate between types of spiking so these figures include all spiking. excluding falls onto spikes, temperature spikes etc Figures are for A&E Attendances.

- unfortunately we are unable to report the toxicology breakdowns.

**2) Please could you provide me with the number of A&E admissions relating to so-called “drink-spiking” between Jan 2015 - Dec 2021? Of these, how many patients had tests taken for toxicology and what were the outcomes? If possible, please can you break this down into types of test (e.g. blood/urine/hair), length of time since incident (“within 12hrs”, “within 24hrs” and “within 72hrs”), demographic of patient and type of drug found (if any)**

Year	ED Attendances
2015	69
2016	74
2017	76
2018	63
2019	81
2020	38
2021	187

Year	Male	Female
2015	19	50
2016	35	39
2017	24	52
2018	24	39
2019	25	56
2020	12	26
2021	39	148

Year	Under 18	18 to 30	31 to 50	51 or over
2015	7	51	11	0
2016	*	58	12	*
2017	*	61	9	*
2018	8	40	15	0
2019	*	60	14	*
2020	*	27	*	*

2021	*	170	14	0
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NOTE: We are unable to accurately differentiate between types of spiking so these figures include all spiking. excluding falls onto spikes, temperature spikes etc Figures are for A&E Attendances.

- unfortunately we are unable to report the toxicology breakdowns.

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).

**3) Please could you provide me with the Trust’s current policy at A&E for testing for reported or suspected “injection-spiking” in patients? If possible, please include information on whether tests are done, even when not clinically necessary e.g. for benefit of capturing the information / early evidence for police in case of subsequent reporting.**

There is no Trust policy re this. It is driven by clinical guidance and we would not routinely screen patients who present as spiked, unless there was a clinical indication to do so, ie they were cardio vascular compromised and to know the results of screening, which take time to process, would alter their clinical management plan.

**4) Please could you provide me with the Trust’s current policy at A&E for testing for reported or suspected “drink-spiking” in patients? If possible, please include information on whether tests are done, even when not clinically necessary e.g. for benefit of capturing the information / early evidence for police in case of subsequent reporting.**

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**5) Please could you tell me what funding, if any, the Trust has received (directly or indirectly) from the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-awarded-for-new-projects-to-keep-women-safe> )?**

The Trust has not received any funding relating to this

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**