

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 22-416**

19 August 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

**The number of patients who were treated for heat-related illnesses at hospitals operating under University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust on 19 of July 2022.**

23

**The number of patients who were treated for heat-related illnesses at hospitals operating under University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust on 21 July, 2021.**

11

**The number of patients who were treated for heat-related illnesses at hospitals operating under University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust on 31 July, 2020.**

8

**The number of patients who were treated for heat-related illnesses at hospitals operating under University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust on 25 of July 2019.**

12

**The number of patients who were treated for heat-related illnesses at hospitals operating under University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust on 25 July, 2021.**

7

**Could you please also state what the Trust – or the NHS as a whole – defines as a heat-related illness.**

We would define a heat related illness as - a heat illness occurs when your body is unable to dissipate heat effectively, the balance of salt and water in your body becomes unbalanced and your temperature rises. Sweating fails to keep you cool.

**Could you also state if the Trust – or the NHS as a whole – has measures in place to prepare for patients suffering heat-related illnesses during heatwaves.**

The preparedness is covered in the Heatwave Plan (please see the attached document) for our organisation (University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust) and the link below for the NHS guidance:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

The following actions are progressed and monitored:

- Monitor Met Office data
- Hold regular heatwave planning meetings across all services
- Have daily check across all services to investigate any heatwave related issues
- Monitor and document temperatures in all areas including ward and department treatment rooms
- Continuation of patient monitoring – vital signs observations as indicated and fluid input and output monitoring and escalation to medical clinicians where required
- Maintain patient and staff hydration – additional cooled bottled water and ice, additional drink rounds for patients
- Use shading as much as possible in day – window blinds
- Ventilation overnight during cooler periods
- Contracting air condition units where appropriate and required

**If so, can you share the document that outlines these policies and measures?**

Please see the attached document.

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:

Data Protection Officer  
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**