

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 22-647

11 November 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

Prior to October 2022, did you have a written plan in the event of a loss of power for the hospital(s) overseen by the trust? What did this entail?

The Trust has an electrical safety policy and a business continuity plan which covers this eventuality.

How long can the hospital(s) run on back-up power?

We do hold this information, however, this information is marked "official sensitive" under government security classifications and not suitable for release into the public domain to protect trust critical infrastructure from malicious threats, therefore we have applied Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act 2002 under which we are required to judge whether complying with the request would or would be likely to endanger anyone's physical or mental health or safety.

Have you re-examined those plans and / or made any alterations for this winter?

No.

What have you changed?

Not applicable.

What are your plans for hospitals if there are regular three-hour power cuts with advanced warning this winter, as warned by the National Grid?

Continue as normal.

Under what scenario would the hospital(s) be forced to close as a result of power outages this winter?

If critical services could not be delivered the trust would declare a critical incident in line with national incident definitions and take action to mitigate – this would potentially involve

redirection of patients and reduction of services however the hospital would not “close” – services would be reduced to mitigate accordingly.

What would your advice to hospitals be in the event of a power outage with advance warning?

We would advise them of the power outage times.

What would your advice to hospitals be in the event of a sudden loss of power?

Follow your service area Business continuity plan

In the event of a sustained nationwide loss of power, have you contacted any other organisations to see if you can draw on their backup generation?

No.

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**