

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-210

11 April 2024

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. The number of acute admissions of women between the ages of 18 to 35 to Gynaecology, Urology or General Surgery per year from 2013 to 2023

a. Of these women the number admissions per year with a diagnosis:

i. Endometriosis

ii. Appendicitis

iii. Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)

iv. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

v. Non-specific abdominal pain

vi. Other

Year	Endometriosis	Appendicitis	Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Non-specific abdominal pain	Other
2013	81	0	88	76	255	2248
2014	94	*	96	91	281	2030
2015	58	*	111	90	252	2093
2016	65	*	100	71	288	2159
2017	80	*	81	83	354	2162
2018	111	*	94	76	362	2312
2019	99	*	117	64	367	2242
2020	91	0	81	86	389	1934
2021	97	0	85	59	349	1988
2022	108	*	88	74	351	2033
2023	125	*	154	93	478	2303

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

b. Of these women and per diagnosis and speciality please can you summarise the number of those who have launched complaint through pals or equivalence

Please note that since 2016, all Trust complaints are recorded on the Datix incident reporting system. Prior to 2016, complaints were recorded on a system called Ulysses Safeguard, which we no longer have access to. The information provided for this request therefore covers the period from 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2023. Unfortunately, due to the way the Datix module is set up, it has not been possible to run the report necessary to provide the requested information based on the age of the patient or only those admitted to hospital. The information provided is therefore based on the following parameters:

- ALL complaints received specifically for Women's Services (Division of Women & Children) during the period shown, where the specialty was recorded as either Gynaecology, Urology or General Surgery. It does not include women admitted for surgery under other divisions of the Trust.
- It should also be noted that adult urology services are managed by North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT), who should be approached for information regarding that specialty – please contact foi@nbt.nhs.uk for further information.

Based on the above restrictions, we can report the number of complaints received as:

- Gynaecology – 371
- General Surgery – *
- Urology – 0

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

c. Of these women and per diagnosis please can you summarise how many had readmissions related to abdominal pain after admission related to diagnostic laparoscopy.

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

10 year follow up data

2. Please can we have the 2013 data of number of diagnostic laparoscopies by general surgeons in women between 16 and 35.

a. Of these women please can we have the diagnosis at time of discharge in 2013 categorised as:

- i. Endometriosis**
- ii. Appendicitis**
- iii. Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)**
- iv. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease**
- v. Non-specific abdominal pain**
- vi. Other**

Year	Endometriosis	Appendicitis	Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Non-specific abdominal pain	Other
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0

b. For those women who were not diagnosed with endometriosis at the time of their discharge, can you provide information on how many of these patients received a new diagnosis of endometriosis in the period from 2013 to the present, following their discharge from the hospital stay that included the diagnostic laparoscopy. Where possible please include the year of diagnosis in a separate table. This could be summarised as 2016 – 17, 2018 - 40 etc.

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3. Please can we have the 2013 data of number of diagnostic laparoscopies by gynaecologists in women between 16 and 35.

a. Of these women please can we have the diagnosis at time of discharge in 2013 categorised as:

- i. Endometriosis**
- ii. Appendicitis**
- iii. Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)**
- iv. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease**
- v. Non-specific abdominal pain**
- vi. Other**

Year	Endometriosis	Appendicitis	Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Non-specific abdominal pain	Other
2013	8	0	*	*	24	48

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

b. For those women who were not diagnosed with endometriosis at the time of their discharge, can you provide information on how many of these patients received a new diagnosis of endometriosis in the period from 2013 to the present, following their discharge from the hospital stay that included the diagnostic laparoscopy. Where possible please include the year of diagnosis in a separate table. This could be summarised as 2016 – 17, 2018 - 40 etc.

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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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

1-5 year follow up data

4. Please can we have the 2018 till 2023 data of number of diagnostic laparoscopies by general surgeons in women between 16 and 35.

a. Of these women please can we have the diagnosis at time of discharge categorised as:

i. Endometriosis

ii. Appendicitis

ii. Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)

iv. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

v. Non-specific abdominal pain

vi. Other

Year	Endometriosis	Appendicitis	Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Non-specific abdominal pain	Other
2018	0	*	0	0	*	*
2019	0	*	*	0	8	14
2020	*	*	*	0	*	7
2021	0	*	0	*	0	*
2022	0	*	0	0	*	*
2023	0	0	0	0	0	*

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

b. For those women who were not diagnosed with endometriosis at the time of their discharge, can you provide information on how many of these patients received a new diagnosis of endometriosis in the period from laparoscopy to the present, following their discharge from the hospital stay that included the diagnostic laparoscopy.

2018 *

2019 14

2020 6

2021 *

2022 *

2023 *

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

5. Please can we have the 2018 till 2023 data of number of diagnostic laparoscopies by gynaecologists in women between 16 and 35.

a. Of these women please can we have the diagnosis at time of discharge categorised as:

- i. Endometriosis
- ii. Appendicitis
- iii. Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)
- v. Non-specific abdominal pain
- vi. Other

Year	Endometriosis	Appendicitis	Ovarian pathology (ovarian torsion, cyst rupture)	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Non-specific abdominal pain	Other
2018	16	0	11	15	39	71
2019	16	0	6	6	32	52
2020	9	0	*	8	21	39
2021	9	0	9	*	22	41
2022	13	0	*	10	10	29
2023	6	0	7	*	10	28

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

b. For those women who were not diagnosed with endometriosis at the time of their discharge, can you provide information on how many of these patients received a new diagnosis of endometriosis in the period from laparoscopy to the present, following their discharge from the hospital stay that included the diagnostic laparoscopy.

2018 *

2020 *

2021 *

2022 *

2023 *

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. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

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