

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 24-292**

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. Do you have documented procedures for the taking of blood cultures in adult patients from both a peripheral and a central venous access device? (And able to provide an electronic copy of this/these documents?)**

Please see the attached document.

**2. Does your microbiology service have 2023 data relating to the % contamination rate of blood cultures from adult patients (This may be a month-by-month rate or an annualised rate)**

Peripheral BC contamination rate in 2023 for Bristol Site 3.6%, Weston site 7.3%

**3. Does your microbiology service have 2023 data relating to the % positivity rate of blood cultures from adult patients (This may be a month-by-month rate or an annualised rate)**

9.8% +ve Bristol Site & 14.6% Weston Site for 2023

**4. Does your microbiology service provide differential time to positivity analysis for blood cultures from adult patients (as a means of diagnosing central line-related bacteraemia)?**

Yes

**5. Does your microbiology service use automated blood culture analysers that have the facility to weigh and estimate the volume of blood with the culture bottles?**

No

**6. For the diagnosis of (Central) "line infections", which diagnostic criteria is used:**

- CRBSI
- CLABSI

- **Another diagnostic criterion (Please state, if possible)** - Other. Microbiology team does not use a single criterion to diagnose central line infection. The diagnosis often involves input from other specialist teams, such as ICU and medical teams caring for the patient and they will use their own criteria to inform the clinical discussion, leading to a mutual derived conclusion.

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**