

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-381

10 June 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 hold some of the information you are requesting

Please provide the number of patients who attended A&E primarily with mental health complaints (i.e. anxiety, depression, other mental health concerns) for each month in 2022 and 2023, and January, February and March 2024.

Year	Month	No of patients
2022	2022	
	January	417
	February	367
	March	441
	April	425
	May	507
	June	400
	July	424
	August	413
	September	408
	October	439
	November	440
	December	282
2023	January	405
	February	429
	March	452
	April	463
	May	461
	June	533
	July	486
	August	479
	September	496
	October	460
	November	466

	December	424
2024		
	January	481
	February	429
	March	456

If possible, please indicate how many of these patients were adults (18 or over) or children (under 18).

0-18: 1983

19+: 9900

Of these patients, please provide the number who spent under 12 hours in A&E in total, between 12 and 24 hours in total, between 24 and 48 hours in total, between 48 and 72 hours in total, between 72 and 96 hours in total, and the number who spent longer than 96 hours in A&E.

Time spent in A&E	No of patients
under 12:00 hrs	10387
between 12:01 and 24:00 hrs	1041
between 24:01 and 48:00 hrs	400
between 48:01 and 72:00 hrs	49
between 72:01 and 96:00 hrs	*
over 96:01 hrs	*

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local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

For those who spent longer than 96 hours, please specify how long they spent in A&E.

*

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.

Please indicate what proportion of people attending A&E with mental health complaints were ultimately admitted, transferred to another provider (please list the relevant providers), or sent home (please specify the proportion of these who were sent home with or without follow-up plans)

A new business intelligence approach to capturing such data is being created in-line with the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB). All patients that are discharged receive either a personalised 'safety plan', or collaboratively agreed plan also shared with their GP.

Please specify what plans the trust has in place to mitigate risks from rising numbers of patients attending A&E with mental health concerns.

Mental health activity (in terms of Emergency Department attendance) is monitored, audited and, if required, is recorded on Divisional and Corporate Risk Registers. This activity and risks are reported via the Adult Mental Health Operational Group, Mental Health Assurance Group, and Safeguarding Steering Group to the Trust Board and to BNSSG ICB.

The Liaison Psychiatry Service is able to adapt its service delivery to meet acute increases in demand in the Emergency Department. The data collated has been used to secure additional nursing and consultant psychiatrist posts in the Trust. There is regular interface and close working with system mental health partners via the BNSSG ICB networks and local mental health networks, to further mitigate risks.

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