

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-002

13th February 2025

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. How many patients visited A&E for all ear-related conditions for e.g., ear infections, burst eardrums, hearing loss etc. during each month of the past five years (2020-2024)?

2020	
Jan	41
Feb	39
Mar	16
Apr	9
May	19
Jun	29
Jul	19
Aug	36
Sep	28
Oct	50
Nov	58
Dec	30
2021	
Jan	29
Feb	22
Mar	41
Apr	37
May	52
Jun	67
Jul	83
Aug	86
Sep	88
Oct	83

Nov	55
Dec	59
2022	
Jan	68
Feb	72
Mar	78
Apr	77
May	72
Jun	91
Jul	84
Aug	86
Sep	77
Oct	80
Nov	107
Dec	89
2023	
Jan	64
Feb	75
Mar	77
Apr	76
May	86
Jun	59
Jul	84
Aug	86
Sep	97
Oct	106
Nov	77
Dec	99
2024	
Jan	91
Feb	110
Mar	135
Apr	98
May	105
Jun	74
Jul	113
Aug	81
Sep	94
Oct	91
Nov	90
Dec	90

2. How many patients were admitted into hospital for all ear-related conditions for e.g., ear infections, burst eardrums, hearing loss etc. during each month of the past five

years (2020-2024)?

2020	
Jan	8
Feb	*
Mar	*
May	*
Jun	*
Aug	*
Sep	*
Oct	*
Nov	7
Dec	*
2021	
Jan	*
Feb	*
Mar	*
Apr	*
May	*
Jun	*
Jul	*
Aug	7
Sep	*
Oct	*
Nov	*
Dec	*
2022	56
Jan	*
Feb	*
Mar	*
Apr	*
May	*
Jun	7
Jul	*
Aug	6
Sep	*
Oct	11
Nov	*
Dec	*
2023	88
Jan	*
Feb	*
Mar	*
Apr	*

May	9
Jun	*
Jul	9
Aug	11
Sep	13
Oct	7
Nov	7
Dec	12
2024	119
Jan	12
Feb	9
Mar	12
Apr	8
May	10
Jun	14
Jul	13
Aug	7
Sep	7
Oct	8
Nov	11
Dec	8

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local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

3. How many patients have been treated for recurrent ear-related conditions, for example, visiting more than once after having initially been diagnosed during winter (mid December - mid March), over the past five years (2020-2024)?

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4. Have there been increases in the prescription of antibiotics or other treatments for ear-related conditions during winter (mid December - mid March), over the past five years (2020-2024)?

We are unable to provide this information - currently we cannot link prescribing to indications.

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