

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-089

18 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 episodes of care were coded by your organisation in 2024 (both inpatient and outpatient)?

Inpatient 177,948 until December 2024. Outpatient 700,048 until December 2024

2. How many episodes of care went uncoded in 2024?

16,697

3. How much income do you estimate was not generated due to uncoded activity?

£174,211. Please be aware that this estimate was not calculated using the episodes quoted as the detail behind those numbers is no longer available, instead it is based on estimates using activity data we have available to us for 2024.

4. Can you provide the split of coding volumes between specialities (e.g., oncology, cardiology)?

Please see the attached document.

5. Please explain how your organisation manages coding activity.

Team of Specialist coders in Bristol and Weston view uncoded report for patient Trust numbers then view and code patient information electronically. Weston codes mainly from paper casenotes but does have a small amount coded from electronic sources. Three team managers are responsible for the staff.

6. Are outpatient and inpatient coding managed by the same team or separate teams?

Separate

7. How many Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff complete clinical coding for the Trust?

30.85 WTE

8. What proportion of the total WTE staff for clinical coding is substantive (permanent), bank staff, and agency staff?

100% substantive

9. Does the Trust currently have any automated solutions in place for clinical coding?

No

10. If yes, please explain the automated solution that is in place.

Not applicable

11. If not, is the Trust planning to implement automated coding solutions in the next 12–24 months? Or would it be interested in exploring potential solutions?

Not currently

12. Is the Trust currently on Payment by Results (PbR), block contracts, or another financial model?

Mainly PbR

13. What clinical coding systems or software does the Trust currently use to capture clinical codes?

Solventum's Medicode

14. Does your Trust's Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system integrate clinical coding, or do clinical departments use standalone systems?

Integrated

15. What are the main challenges the Trust faces in clinical coding (e.g., timeliness, accuracy, staffing shortages)?

All of the above.

16. Could you provide the contact details (name, job title, and email) of the person who is ultimately responsible for overseeing clinical coding within the Trust?

David Hale, Joint Chief Data and Analytics Officer

digitalservicesadmin@uhbw.nhs.uk

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