

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-313

8th May 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 some of the information you are requesting

I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding cases of food poisoning due to incorrect identification or inappropriate preparation of wild food.

Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 April 2020 and the most recent date for which data is available.

Please could you provide the following:

a. A yearly breakdown of the number of cases of food poisoning due to incorrect identification or inappropriate preparation of wild food.

Please see the table below. We can use ICD10 codes for inpatients/ day cases, or SNOMED for A&E attendances, to identify cases with a primary diagnosis of food poisoning. We can't identify the source or preparation method for the food.

	Year				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total patients discharged from a hospital stay, having initially been admitted for Food Poisoning	8	*	6	6	*
Total patients departing A&E department, having attended for Food Poisoning	82	192	207	217	197

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local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.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. The type of wild food that caused the food poisoning (for example: fungi, plant, berries, etc...). Please include the specific species if known.

Please see the table below. ICD codes categorise cases as mushroom/ berry/ plant/ other substance. We don't record the species of plant/ fungus/ animal.

	Year				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total patients discharged from a hospital stay	*	0	0	*	*
	*	0	6	*	*
	*	*	0	0	*
	0	0	0	*	0
	0	*	0	*	0
	8	*	6	6	*
Total patients departing A&E department	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
	15	33	24	18	21
	0	0	0	0	0
	67	159	183	199	176
	82	192	207	217	197

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. The symptoms experienced by the patient and the recovery time (for example: overnight stay or discharged within a couple hours)

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.

d. The location where this food was picked.

We do not hold this information.

We would define 'wild or foraged' foods to be either:

a. Wild, naturally growing food which was picked and consumed by an individual

b. Wild, naturally growing food which was consumed by an individual, but was served in a restaurant environment, having been picked in the wild within the UK.

If you need to carry out a key terms search to locate these records, please include the terms "foraged", "foraging", "wild food", "forager", "wild ingredients". If you would document these cases in another way, please include these results as per the spirit of my request.

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