

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-395

11 June 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

Emergency Robotic Surgery in General Surgery.

If possible, I would like to make an FOI request to obtain the following information email for the time period of 2023-2025:

1. The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic. For robotic surgeries please can this be further broken down into the type of robot in use for each operation (e.g. include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand).

Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic (DaVinci)
20629	1675	12

2. Type and numbers of robot available in your trust and used in emergency general surgery cases (Examples include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand, Soloassist, Microhand S, AESOP, Zeus).

DaVinci x4

Renishaw neuromate stereotactic x1

3. The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025 occurring during out of hours (weekends, nights)

8518

4. Number of robotic general surgery cases (both emergency and elective) performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025.

436

5. Number the following operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic (with robotic surgeries further broken down into type of robot used if applicable)

- 1. cholecystectomies**
- 2. laparotomies**
- 3. Laparoscopies**
- 4. appendectomies**
- 5. hernia repairs**
- 6. Hartmann's procedures**
- 7. Adhesiolysis**
- 8. Small bowel resection**

Count of Operations Performed	Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic (DaVinci)
Cholecystectomies	147	1061	29
laparotomies	408	28	0
Laparoscopy	90	129	0
appendectomies	251	1009	*
hernia repairs	1211	119	6
Hartmann's	68	11	*
Adhesiolysis	750	762	78
Small bowel resection	224	25	*

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.

1. Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic.

1. cholecystectomies
2. laparotomies
3. Laparoscopies
4. appendectomies
5. hernia repairs
6. Hartmann's procedures
7. Adhesiolysis
8. Small bowel resection

Average Length of Stay	Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic (DaVinci)
Cholecystectomies	10	*	0
laparotomies	19	20	0
Laparoscopy	*	*	0
appendectomies	17	*	*
hernia repairs	*	7	*
Hartmann's	18	13	*
Adhesiolysis	18	6	*
Small bowel resection	42	33	*

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.

1. The number and type of complications that occurred in robotic general surgery cases between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Including but not limited to conversions to another type of surgery, device-related complications, injury to surrounding structures or tissue, serums, infection, leakage, hernias, mortality.

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.

2. Number of staff trained to assist with robotic cases - Assuming this is theatre staff, Im not sure including STMH staff trained on the Audit day would be fair, is there a HGT colleague I could ask?

Approximately 10.

3. The average (Over 4 weeks) number of staff trained to assist in robotic surgery available out of hours (weekends/nights).

We do not do weekend lists, we do extended lists – approximately 10.

To elaborate emergency general surgery would include robotic assisted operations in any of: Acute surgical diseases of the abdomen, mesenteric ischaemia, appendectomies, cholecystectomies, hernias, bowel obstruction, adhesiolysis, diverticular disease, diverticulitis, incarceration, perforation, peritonitis, and acute conditions of the gastrointestinal tract.

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