

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-491

2 July 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

Freedom of Information Request

1. Have you undertaken an equality impact assessment for vegans in hospital? If yes, can you provide a copy of the assessment?

No, not applicable.

2. Are you following your public sector equality duty toward vegans? Please provide any documents or information to explain whether and how the PSED is being followed towards vegans.

Please see the attached document.

3. Do you guarantee a full vegan option that is nutritionally appropriate on all menus and in all cafeterias at all times, for all meals, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack options.

By 'guaranteed' I mean, is there always a fully vegan option available.

For clarity, a salad without a plant-based protein and starch or carbohydrate would obviously not be nutritionally appropriate, nor would having only fruit or toast with jam available for a vegan person. For example, many vegetarian options adapted to be vegan would not be nutritionally appropriate as they would be lacking in protein unless there was a substitution provided.

Inpatient areas:

Adults:

Vegan menus are available for all inpatient areas. The vegan menu specifies all suitable options for breakfast, lunch, evening meals, and snacks. It is ordered via the catering iPad, where meals are ordered before 9.30am for lunch and evening mealtime.

In admission areas (such as surgical admission unit, A609), a selection of individual frozen

meals to suit a variety of patients' needs are kept in the freezer on the ward.

Our SOP: obtaining catering out of hours provides details for staff on how to access meals in case of need outside of catering hours. This would provide staff with guidance on how to access meals should they be needed in case of need.

In addition, we have a special diet protocol in use in adult services at Bristol and Weston that provides guidance for staff on how to cater for a wide range of special diets, including vegan. This details which items should be ordered additionally for patients from the diet kitchen. Our menus are available on external webpages, and internally via QR codes found at ward level and, most commonly, via paper menus. A full list of options is also available on the catering iPad, which is used to take patient menu choices.

Paediatrics:

Vegan options are available for all inpatient areas. There are several vegan options available on the main menu and in addition there are several options on the z menu which can be ordered via the catering iPad, where meals are ordered before 9.30am for lunch and evening mealtime.

A full list of options is available on the catering iPad, which is used to take patient menu choices

Cafeteria's:

Our on site cafés offer a range of vegan options daily to its customers - which include: Salads, wraps, sandwiches, jacket potato's with various fillings and Chilli.

For clarity, a salad without a plant-based protein and starch or carbohydrate would obviously not be nutritionally appropriate, nor would having only fruit or toast with jam be available for a vegan person. For example, many vegetarian options adapted to be vegan would not be nutritionally appropriate as they would be lacking protein unless there was a substitution provided.

4. Do you guarantee plant milk availability on all campuses for coffee and tea? For clarity, plant milk refers to: Soy, oat, almond, or coconut milk.

Adults:

Soya and oat milk are readily available at ward level, coconut milk available on request from the catering department

Paediatrics:

Soya milk and soya desserts are readily available at ward level. Coconut and oat milk and soya yoghurts are available on request from the catering dept.

Our cafes: offer a full range of dairy alternatives: soya, oat, almond and coconut.

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