

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-516

6 August 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

This is a request under FOIA for details of instances in which University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.

As the Government has made clear, late payment remains a significant issue for business and a drag on the UK economy as a whole. It is clear that, despite what the law says, many suppliers have not received timely payment or the interest and compensation for late payment to which they are entitled by statute.

Public authorities must keep information on payment in order to comply with their legal obligations, and there is a public interest in ensuring both compliance and that unpaid interest and compensation is recovered from public authorities. If proper records are kept as they ought to be, then information in this respect ought readily to be available. The information requested below is not confidential, and its disclosure under FOIA is not capable of adversely affecting any party's commercial interests. This is because this request is aimed at data about late payment liabilities that have in fact arisen: the disclosure of this data cannot cause any additional liability to arise. We therefore do not anticipate any reasonable grounds for refusing this request.

In any event, there is strong public interest in transparency about these matters.

Relevant factors in this respect include: enhancing public understanding and scrutiny of issues of significant importance to stewardship of the public purse and to economic growth; facilitating an informed debate about compliance by your authority with its contractual obligations and with Government policy; helping businesses that suffer from late payment (many of which are small and medium-sized enterprises), and encouraging improvements in payment practices by public authorities such as yours.

Request

With the above points in mind, we request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in

Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2019 to the date of this request:

1. Supplier Name
2. Invoice Date
3. Gross Invoice Value
4. Payment Date
5. Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)

Clarification:

We reiterate that this request:

- (a) Â Â is limited to information which should (if proper records are kept) be readily available from a purchase ledger system and should therefore be possible to retrieve without any difficulty and without imposing any significant burden;
- (b) Â Â relates to organisations (not individuals) who are entitled to be paid out of public funds for public services, and we do not require the disclosure of any personal information of any individual person;
- (c) Â Â does not require the disclosure of any confidential information or information to the production of which there could be any other lawful objection.

Compliance Assistance:

While we do not anticipate any grounds on which the requested information can lawfully be withheld, we nonetheless remind you of your duty under section 16 of FOIA to advise and assist requesters.

Please note that you can find information relating to trade invoices in our Annual Reports published on the Trust website on the links below:

https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/weston_area_health_nhs_trust_annual_report_and_annual_accounts_signed_final.pdf
https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/uhb_annual_report_and_accounts_-_final.pdf
https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/uhbw_annual_report_2020-21_final_version_for_website.pdf
https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/university_hospitals_bristol_and_weston_nhs_foundation_trust_annual_report_2021-22_combined_web.pdf
https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/final_uhbw_annual_report_and_accounts_2022-23_for_parliament.pdf
[uhbw_annual_report_and_accounts_2023-24_full_pack_v3.pdf](https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/uhbw_annual_report_and_accounts_2023-24_full_pack_v3.pdf)
[uhbw_annual_report_2024-25_full.pdf](https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/assets/1/uhbw_annual_report_2024-25_full.pdf)

Under Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, we are required to judge as to whether the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. Under guidance issued by the Information Commissioner states that this exemption applies if disclosure of the withheld information would, or would be likely to prejudice the prevention of criminal acts in relation to the Trust's financial systems and information, such as hacking, theft of data, misuse of invoice/confidential data or the disruption of the Trust's operations. We believe that the public interest arguments in favour of withholding

this information are due to the sensitive nature of the data requested presents a significant risk of it being used not for the purposes for which the data was collected and processed.

A disclosure made under the Freedom of Information Act is a disclosure to the public at large. The Trust treats its Data Protection responsibilities as of paramount importance and we have robust processes in place to protect our financial systems and infrastructure. Although we appreciate the many requests for information are genuine, unfortunately some individuals/organisations may intend to misuse the information released for fraudulent purposes. Disclosure of this information may inadvertently provide criminals with avenues to exploit potential weaknesses with the impact on the Trust of financial loss and disruption. The Trust is undertaking a process of continual improvement of our cybersecurity posture amid the changing landscape and we are doing our utmost to protect the significant amount of data that we are responsible for alongside developing a more secure content strategy.

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