

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-544

23 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 hold some of the information you are requesting

1. How many hospital admissions in the past five years had the recorded reason for attendance of 'food poisoning'? Please provide figures for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Note: If it is not possible to provide a response for 'food poisoning' specifically, please include all admission codes under which a food poisoning-related admission could be logged.

Admission period	Number of patients
2020/21	160
2021/22	186
2022/23	225
2023/24	232
2024/25	281

2. How many reported admissions in total involved the following?:

Please note the following answers for questions Q2a, b and c, the totals are based on how many Inpatient spells (please see question 1), have a Salmonella, E.Coli or Campylobacter diagnosis code recorded against those spells. This does not necessarily mean that these patients have Salmonella, E.Coli or Campylobacter as a result of food poisoning. Patients may have more than one of these diagnoses within their inpatient spell, so could be counted more than once.

2a. Salmonella

Admission period	Count of Inpatient Spells
2020/21	9
2021/22	14
2022/23	12

2023/24	18
2024/25	19

2b. E.Coli

Admission period	Count of Inpatient Spells
2020/21	141
2021/22	166
2022/23	199
2023/24	207
2024/25	247

2c. Campylobacter

Admission period	Count of Inpatient Spells
2021/22	*
2024/25	*

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local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

For 2a, 2b and 2c, please also provide a breakdown by financial year (same years as in Q1)

3. If possible, please provide a breakdown of the foodstuffs stated as the cause of the illness.

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.

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