

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 25-605**

19<sup>th</sup> September 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

**I am writing on behalf of STARS, a UK-based charity working to improve awareness, understanding, and care pathways for individuals experiencing syncope/loss of consciousness.**

**As part of our service mapping project, we are seeking information about how syncope and unexplained loss of consciousness are managed within your Trust.**

**We understand there may not be a standalone “syncope/loss of consciousness” service. If this is the case, we would appreciate if the following services were contacted for the purpose of this FOI request:**

- **Cardiology**

Patients with syncope would be seen in Electrophysiology clinics but we cannot distinguish these from patients with arrhythmia or other potential rhythm issues with the heart.

- **Neurology** – The neurology service is provided by North Bristol NHS Trust. Please contact [FOIRequests@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIRequests@nbt.nhs.uk) for further information.

- **Geriatric Medicine**

Patients with syncope would be seen but we cannot distinguish these from patients with other medical issues.

- **Emergency Department**

**1. How many patients were presented to your department over the last three financial years, coded under Syncope, Blackout, Faint, Loss of Consciousness or Transient Loss**

## **of Consciousness (TLOC)?**

### **Emergency Department:**

**2022/2023:** 29

**2023/2024:** 27

**2024/2025:** 26

## **2. Of the above patients, how many were admitted to the hospital ward for further assessment?**

### **Emergency Department**

**2022/2023:** \*

**2023/2024:** \*

**2024/2025:** \*

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.

## **3. How many were discharged on the same day following a period of observation?**

### **Emergency department**

**2022/2023:** \*

**2023/2024:** \*

**2024/2025:** \*

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.

## **4. Do you have a local syncope management/referral pathway being actively utilised by clinicians?**

No

## **5. Do you have a syncope unit attached to ED or somewhere within your hospital?**

No

**6. If yes, which business unit/department is your syncope unit located in? E.g. cardiology, neurology**

Not applicable

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**