



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2023/8604

Date Received: 13th January 2023

Response Due: 10th February 2023

Date: 8th February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act. This is a request of multiple parts. Please treat each part as a separate request.

Please provide me with the following information from your trust. In all references to years I am asking for the information from the entire calendar year (January to December inclusive).

- 1. The total number of deaths considered more likely than not to have occurred due to problems in care in the trust for each quarter for which records are available.**

Please note that the figures below are provided per year as we do not record this information in a quarterly format.

Year	Number of Deaths
2015	15
2016	11
2017	10
2018	11
2019	6
2020	5
2021	<5

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

2. The highest number of days of delayed discharge in your trust in of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

We did not record this data before 2021.

Year	Number of Days
2021	122
2022	148

3. The longest waiting time recorded in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for a patient to receive the result of each of the following diagnostic tests:

- a. Magnetic Resonance Imaging test (MRI)
- b. Echocardiogram
- c. Non-obstetric ultrasound

We do not record data to this level of granularity.

4. The longest period of time that a patient spent on a waiting list for a non-urgent operation in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. For each year, please also include, if possible, which category of operation is concerned.

YEAR	Procedure Description	Weeks wait
2018	Revision of total prosthetic replacement of elbow joint NEC	57
2019	Endoscopic extirpation of lesion of ovary NEC	67
2020	Injection of therapeutic substance around peripheral nerve	97
2021	Circumcision	127
2022	Fibreoptic endoscopic resection of lesion of colon NEC	136

5. The numbers of patients removed from outpatient or elective care waiting lists with a removal reason of death, for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Year	Number of patients removed from lists
2018	1003
2019	1292
2020	848
2021	687
2022	876
Grand Total	4706

In part 1, if these numbers are only available for patients who have not been identified as having learning disabilities, that is acceptable. The request is based on [this announcement](#) by the

Department of Health and Social Care, and the 'Learning from Deaths Dashboard' template announced by NHS England.

In part 4, I recognise that it is not possible to determine the cause of death of the patient. That is not what I am requesting.

For all parts of this request, if the data to the end of 2022 is not available, then please include as much of the year as possible.

If the trust experienced any merger in the timeframes required, please include if possible the results for the separate defunct trusts before the merger, and then the results for the new trust.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Paritosh Desai
Director of Operations & Performance – Division of Medicine

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111