

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/10395

Date Received: 6th January 2025

Response Due: 3rd February 2025

Date: 27th January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 6th January 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Data required (for period between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024)

- We require the gender of the patient (M or F), the date that they attended due to assault (dd/mm/yyyy) and their age. Age can either be numerical to the nearest year (preferred) or in age bands ("0-10", "11-17", "18-30", "31-50", "51+"), we can also accept date of birth.**

Age Group	Female	Male
0 - 10	5	<5
11 - 17	22	54
18 - 30	65	182
31 - 50	97	189
51 +	22	77

The Trust has a standard procedure 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:

- 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).

Please note the attendance dates are being withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the date of attendance would make individual patients identifiable. Section 40(2) is an 'absolute' exemption, and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

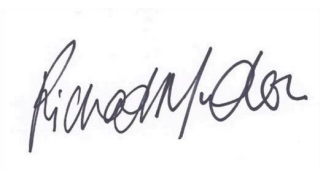
2. To calculate the level of assault-related injury in England and Wales we also require the total number of attendances for any reason in the year of interest, i.e., 2024.
99,889.

3. Please also include the names of hospitals (including Minor Injury Units and Walk-in Centres) providing assault data.

All data provided is based off the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary site as the Trust does not currently have a reporting mechanism for data coming out of the Leigh Urgent Treatment Centre.

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 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Mundon', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Mundon
Deputy Chief Executive

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