



# 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](mailto:foi@wwl.nhs.uk)  
Web: [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2024/10243

Date Received: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Response Due: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**1. How many incidents of a retained foreign object post-procedure were logged by your Trust in the past five years?**

5.

**By 'retained foreign object post procedure', I refer to retained guide wires, mouth props, surgical instruments, needles, vaginal swabs, throat packs, etc.**

**Please break down this information by:**

**The retained item.**

**The financial year, covering April 1st - March 31st (2019/20, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024).**

Please note that the item breakdown and the yearly breakdown is being withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the breakdown would make individual patients identifiable.

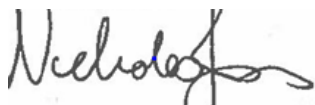
Section 40(2) is an 'absolute' exemption, and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

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.

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 'Nicholas Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Jones  
Interim Director of Operations and Performance

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