

Ref: FOI/2024/10096

Date Received: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Response Due: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29<sup>th</sup> August 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:

**I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the toxicological screening procedures for individuals who present themselves to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments and identify themselves as individuals who believe they might have been administered a substance without their consent.**

**To aid your understanding, this request pertains to procedures, information, testing, and advice, offered to those who would colloquially be referred to as individuals who believe they might have been “drugged” or “roofied”.**

**Specifically, I would like to request the following information:**

**Procedures for Toxicological Screening:**

- 1. What are the standard procedures for conducting screenings for individuals who believe they might have been administered a substance without their consent upon presenting to A&E?**  
The Trust does not routinely screen for substances, therefore, does not have a formal testing protocol.
- 2. Are there specific protocols for these situations, and if so, what are they?**  
N/A.

**If there is a document, flow chart or any other materials, pertaining to these procedures, please can these be attached to your reply.**

### **Information Provided to Patients:**

3. **What information is given to patients regarding the utility and limitations of testing conducted in your A&E setting, including the context of potential law enforcement or justice processes, if any?**

Not routinely given as it is not used for this purpose.

4. **Does this information make clear whether or not tests conducted in A&E are admissible in court? If so, what does it state?**

The Trust is unable to comment on the admissibility of the tests in a court of law, as they are not intended to be used for this purpose. The Trust does not carry out tests on behalf of the police, the police will provide their own forensic clinical to collect such samples.

5. **What advice or support is provided to individuals during and after the screening process?**

Not routinely given as it is not used for this purpose. However, patients will be supported to contact the police and treat medically if needed.

6. **Are there any follow-up procedures or referrals to other support services offered to these individuals?**

As stated above, patients are advised to notify the police who may have support services.

**If there is a document, flow chart or any other materials, provided to patients, please can these be attached to your reply.**

### **Scope of Toxicological Testing:**

7. **What is the scope of screening conducted in your A&E? If available, what type of testing is used.**

This testing is only to aid in the management of a patient's condition, in particular if they are inebriated or have unexplained pathology.

8. **Are any specific drugs or substances prioritised or given special attention during these screenings?**

See the above response.

### **Training:**

9. **Have A&E staff had specific and dedicated training about spiking? If so, please provide details of this training.**

Staff are trained to care for all our patients with empathy and compassion and to support as best as possible all patient presentations, however, there is no specific training for patients who may have been spiked beyond that mentioned above.

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,



Paritosh Desai  
Divisional Director of Operations & Performance (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