



# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Buckingham Row

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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/2023/8763

Date Received: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Response Due: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

**How many patients were diagnosed clinically and radiologically with CES at the Emergency Department and by the Orthopaedic/Spinal Surgeons and/or underwent decompression or related surgery at your NHS Trust which perform spinal surgery:**

- i. **Incomplete cauda equina syndrome**
- ii. **Complete cauda equina syndrome**

Please find number of patients and if they were admitted as an inpatient.

## **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:

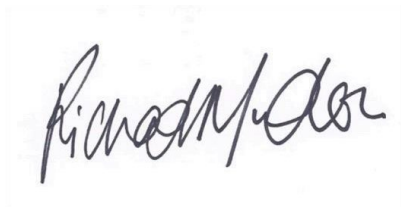
- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved,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

The trust does not perform this surgery. Please redirect your questions regarding the surgery to the below:

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust have joined forces to create a joint pathology service called Pathology at Wigan and Salford. This information should be held by Salford Royal NHS FT. Please submit a request to them by emailing [FOIrequest@srft.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIrequest@srft.nhs.uk) or [informationsecurity&dataprotection@srft.nhs.uk](mailto:informationsecurity&dataprotection@srft.nhs.uk),

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,

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

Richard Mundon  
Director of Strategy and Planning

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