

Information Governance Department
Suite 9
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Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

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

Ref: FOI/2023/9087

Date Received: 26th July 2023

Response Due: 23rd August 2023

Date: 17th August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

Q1. How many individuals have been discharged to 'no fixed abode' from hospitals within your trust? Where possible please provide data both by individual medical department and as a whole (for the entire Trust).

Please provide data for each of the following financial years:

- 2022/2023 (or the latest financial year)
- 2017/2018

If you do not hold data on the number of individuals, please provide the number of discharges there have been to 'no fixed abode'.

NFA Patients discharged 2022/23 grouped by Speciality

Discharge Speciality	Total
Accident and Emergency	13
Gastroenterology	<5
General Medicine	22
General Surgery	<5
Oral Surgery	<5
Trauma & Orthopaedics	7
Grand Total	46

NFA Patients discharged 2017/18 grouped by Speciality

Discharge Speciality	Total
Accident and Emergency	51
ENT	<5
Gastroenterology	<5
General Medicine	34
General Surgery	9
Trauma & Orthopaedics	6
Grand Total	102

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).

Q2a. Of those individuals who were discharged to 'no fixed abode' (in Q1) how many were readmitted within six months?

Please provide data for each of the following financial years:

- **2022/2023 (or the latest financial year)**

15

- **2017/2018**

45

Q2b. Of the individuals in Q2a, how many individuals were readmitted because of substance use issues?

Please provide data for each of the following financial years:

- **2022/2023 (or the latest financial year)**

<5

- **2017/2018**

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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:

- c) 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
- d) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

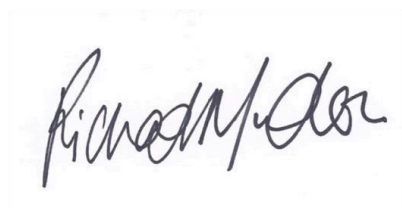
Q3. Does your NHS Trust have guidance/policy in place that details how to support a patient who is being discharged from hospital to 'no fixed abode'?

Our Trust Policy states '*To ensure that the Greater Manchester Hospital Discharge (Prevention of Homelessness) protocol is available on Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Intranet and is adhered to on admission for those persons classed as No Fixed Abode*'

However please note, that this policy is currently being reviewed and the new iteration has an additional Policy in regard to managing discharges for the homeless population.

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,



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