

Ref: FOI/2023/8990

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

Response Due: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

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

**1. The number of operations your trust has done to remove rectal foreign bodies from patients in the years:**

- **2022** - <5

- **2023 (to June 1)** - <5

**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).

**2. A list of the foreign bodies you have removed in this time period.**

We do not record what the foreign bodies are. These are recorded simply as 'Removal of Foreign Body'.

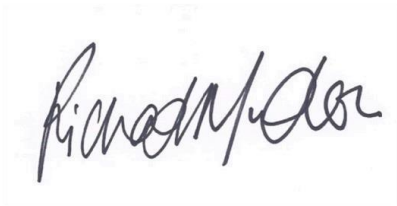
**3. Guidelines as to what happens to these foreign bodies once they have been removed, or any list of the ways in which this has been done - for instance they have been disposed of or returned to owner.**

When the Foreign Body has been removed, it is reviewed on an individual basis. We would take advice from infection control to see if it can be decontaminated, then either discarded or returned to the patient.

If requested by the police the item is placed in a bag, documented in the patient's care pathway and retained as evidence.

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 centered on a white rectangular background.

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