

Ref: FOI/2023/8860

Date Received: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Response Due: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

**For the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022:**

**- How many post-mortem examinations were performed?**

Year	Examinations
2019	708
2020	572
2021	597
2022	683

**- What was the average number of days between the time of death and the release of the body after a post-mortem examination?**

Year	Days
2019	19
2020	21
2021	22
2022	20

**- How many pathologists worked in the trust (in WTE)?**

The pathologists are not employed by the trust in any respect they worked on behalf of HM Coroner.

2019 – <5

2020 – <5  
2021 – <5  
2022 – <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).

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