



# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Wigan

WN1 1XX

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Web: [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2023/9221

Date Received: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Response Due: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

**Can I request the number of patient safety incidents that resulted in a severe or death degree of harm to the patients (as defined by NHS England [here](#)) and what month and year they took place from 2010 to present please.**

**Can I also have these as two separate figures - one for severe and one for death - and a figure of how many deaths there were in total as an incident can refer to more than one death.**

Please see the attached.

Please note at this moment in time the Trust is unable to release the information on patient safety incidents relating to deaths. Work is ongoing to ensure that this information will be released in future publications.

## **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.

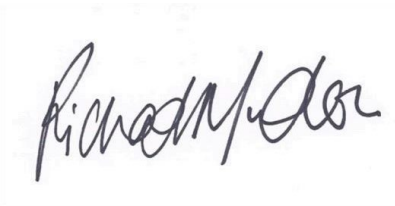
To disclose this information would:

- 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,

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