

Date: Thursday, 19th March 2020
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 4273

Sid Watkins Building
Lower Lane
Fazakerley
Liverpool L9 7BB
Tel: 01515253611
Fax: 01515295500
Direct Line: 01515563038

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4273

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 03rd March 2020.

Your request was as follows:

I request the information for the following years:

2015-16
2016-17
2017-18
2018-19
2019-20
2020-present

1. The number of patients stuck in hospital due to delayed transfers of care, also known as bed blocking. Please tell me the reasons for their delayed transfer and be as specific as possible.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it.

Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible to you

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), as it is already reasonably accessible to you.

The information you have requested is published on NHS England, please use the following link:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/delayed-transfers-of-care/>

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

2. The length of time these patients were stuck in hospital.

As above.

3. The number of patients stuck in hospital due to delayed transfers of care (bed blocking) because they have hoarding disorder.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 12 - Requests where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

In response to your request, whilst we hold the information requested we believe an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies to it. Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse to answer requests for information if the cost of complying would exceed the 18 hour appropriate limit prescribed in the Fees Regulations.

In order to respond to your request this would require an audit person reviewing case notes on each discharge during the years requested. The time it would take to compile and collate the activity data required by means of a manual trawl of records would be in excess of this appropriate limit.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

4. The length of time these patients were stuck in hospital.

As above.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4273 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information