Date: Thursday, 17th December 2020
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4543

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

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4543
We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 30th November 2020.
Your request was as follows:

Please can you tell me how many cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 the trust has had since 1st March 2020.

Please state the date the case was discovered, the name of the hospital and the ward/department where the patient was, the outcome for the patient (i.e. recovered, died), and whether any staff were also affected (if so, please state how many and the area of the hospital where they work).

Please also include any information that was shared with Public Health England on these cases.

Since 1st March 2020 The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust has had 40 patients with hospital-acquired Covid-19 cases.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested relating to the ward/department where the patient was and the outcome for the patient. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:
Section 40 (2) - Third Party Data
This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), due to the minimal number of patients identified, and in answering your query may lead to the undue stress of families and patients as this information may still lead to patients being identified. Therefore this information has not been released for reasons of confidentiality. This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

Since 1st March 2020 The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust the trust has had the following covid-related staff absence occurrences, please note we do not hold the information on if these were hospital acquired:

Month Total Occurrences
March 148
April 244
May 78

June 36

July   34

August 9

Sept   41

Oct   78

Nov   62

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 4543 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