

Date: Thursday, 18th February 2021
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 4609

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4609

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 03rd February 2021.

Your request was as follows:

1. The number of hospital patients who tested positive for Covid-19 after initially testing negative between November 30 2020 and 31 January 2021.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) 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. WCFT is counting COVID-19 deaths as per the national guidance. The figure, and a description of the definition we are using, is published daily and can be found via the links below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>
<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

2. The number of these patients who subsequently died

See Question 1 response.

3. If available, please could I have details of the date of admission, the reason for their initial hospital admission e.g. fractured bone, chest infection, the date of the positive test and the date of their death.

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 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.

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 4609 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