

Date: Wednesday, 30th June 2021
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4790

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

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4790

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 30th June 2021.

Your request was as follows:

1) Please can you tell me how many cases of hospital-acquired Covid-19 the Trust has had since 1st March 2020 to the present day? Please break this down by probable and definite nosocomial infections if this data is available.

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. The information you have requested is published on NHS England website.

Please use the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/>

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) Please also give me the number of deaths from hospital acquired infections (probable and definite cases). If you are able please state, in each case, if you have informed the patient's relative that it was a hospital acquired infection?

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold the information you have requested as we do not get informed of patient post-mortem results, therefore we cannot provide this information.

Under the FOI Act, we are not required to create this information in order to answer your request. I should explain that the FOI Act is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities. The FOI Act does not require public authorities to generate information, or to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

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 4790 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