

Freedom of Information Request**Ref: UHB 16-570**

Date 6 April 2017

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

I am interested to know about the national provision of healthcare for the helicobacter pylori stomach infection. I have been given your contact details as the person to talk to in connection with Freedom of Information Requests for your hospital's department of gastroenterology.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information act, I should like to know:

1. Your policy for the identification and screening for Helicobacter Pylori infections.

We have a policy for patients who present or are in patients with symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting. Specimens sent would then be tested for a variety of infections including Helicobacter Pylori.

2. Your procedure for GP referral for patients presenting with gastritis. In particular:

a. Are the GPs required to carry out or request any screening procedures at Out Patient Departments in advance of a referral.

We do not hold this information.

b. Does the GP give you a referral letter with implicit permissions to treat the patient without further reference to him/her?

We do not hold this information.

3. The total number of gastroscopic investigations carried out over the most recent 12 month period for which you have data

There were 4197 between 1st November 2015 and 31 October 2016.

4. The number Campylobacter-like organism (CLO) tests carried out during gastroscopy in the same period. These may also be referred to as Rapid Urease Tests (RUT)

There were 773 between 1st November 2015 and 31st October 2016

5. The number of stool antigen tests requested by you for the diagnosis of Hp infection in the same period (if applicable)

We do not hold this information as we don't currently have a clinical code to record the number of stool antigen tests; therefore we are unable to answer at this time.

6. The number of urea breath tests (C13 or C14) carried out by you in the same period (if applicable)

As the figures are less than five we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. There therefore find that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

7. The number of patients treated for H Pylori infections in the same period.

The number of patients diagnosed with H.Pylori infections between 1st November 2015 and 31 October 2016 was 30.

The number of patients where H.Pylori infection was causing a specific disease between 1st November and 31st October 2016 was 61.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, 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:

Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above 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 Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]