

Freedom of Information Request**Ref: UHB 17-344**

Date 6 June 2017



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

- 1. Please provide me with a list of the dates of all morbidity and mortality meetings/conferences that have taken place within the neurosurgical and spinal departments of your trust within the past 12-month period (November 2015 to October 2016 inclusive). For each meeting please provide the following information:**

- a) The date of the meetings:**

Meetings for the Neurosurgery department were held on:

- November 2015
- December 2015
- January 2016
- February 2016
- March 2016
- April 2016
- May 2016
- June 2016
- December 2016

The Trust's spinal department has no formal meetings due to the small number of patients that have morbidity or mortality. Instead they have a four weekly discussion of all patients on the elective lists or any other patients who need to be discussed who have been seen in clinic.

- b) The department holding the meeting - spinal or neurosurgical**

Both the Spinal and Neurosurgical departments hold morbidity and mortality meetings however the Spinal team do not have any formal meetings, as noted above.

c) The number of cases discussed that related to patients admitted emergently

This information was not recorded at the Morbidity and Mortality meetings and so this would need to be looked up on an individual basis, which will also require de-anonymising the cases. Therefore, as the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. **Section 12** of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

d) The number of cases discussed that related to patients admitted electively

This information was not recorded at the Morbidity and Mortality meetings and so this would need to be looked up on an individual basis, which will also require de-anonymising the cases. Therefore, as the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. **Section 12** of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

e) How outcomes are classified, e.g., are they classified in accordance with standard retrospective case record review (RCRR) methodology into grades 0-3, or are they classified according to NCEPOD grading of care (grades 1-5), or using another similar methodology. Please state explicitly which methodology is used.

The Neurosurgery complications are graded 1-4 (Accordion Severity Grading), as per published recommendations.

The Spinal department does not formally classify the outcomes at this stage.

- f) What proportion of the department's (a) consultant, (b) staff grade, (c) registrar and (d) SHO staff attended each meeting, based on the staffing level at each timepoint. Please provide actual figures (numerator/denominator) rather than percentages.**

There was no staff attendance list used for past Neurosurgery meetings, but this will be captured moving forward. It is normally attended by 2 consultants, 3-5 registrars & several nurses and APNP's. It usually represents >70-80% of those fostered to be there.

All consultants along with one or two fellows, specialist nurses, anaesthetists and consultant radiologists are usually present for the Spinal M&M meetings.

- g) How the learning/outcomes for each case are distributed and shared within your trust after each meeting**

Learning/outcomes from Neurosurgery meetings is captured in the yearly departmental Progress Report, which is shared divisionally and presented at the Children's Clinical Governance meeting.

Learning/outcomes from the Spinal M&M meetings are disseminated to the relevant personnel by the Trust and actioned as required.

- 2. Please tell me whether your trust has a standard operating procedure, guideline or similar for the organisation, running and governance of morbidity and mortality meetings.**

Please see attached

- 3. Lastly, please also provide the monthly emergency and elective mortality figures in the departments concerned for each of the 12 months in this period (November 2015 to October 2016 inclusive). Again, please provide actual figures (numerator/denominator) rather than percentages.**

We do hold this information however the figures are less than five. Where numbers 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

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,

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