

Freedom of Information Request**Ref: UHB 17-670**

Date 14 December 2017

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

I am writing with a Freedom Of Information request regarding the medical removal (surgical or otherwise) of foreign objects from patients' rectums / colons over the dates September 30th 2015 - September 29th 2016 and September 30th 2016 to September 30th 2017. I would like a breakdown in two Microsoft excel spreadsheets, one for each year requested.

In each spreadsheet, I would like a list of all procedures carried out on your premises by medical professionals to remove foreign objects from patients' rectums / colons. I define a "foreign object" as an object that is separate from the body, therefore not including natural growths or tumours.

I would like the list of each of these procedures to be accompanied with generic information of the procedure and the patient:

- **This should include date and time of procedure, gender of the patient and age of the patient.**
- **Also accompanying each procedure, I would like generic information regarding the nature of the procedure.**
- **This includes whether surgery under anaesthetic was required, and a brief summary naming the object(s) removed.**

Due to low figures, we are unable to provide the information in the requested format as we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified, when considered with other information that may be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of information would breach the Data Protection Act. Therefore please find that Section 40 (2) exemption contained within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is engaged. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information.

Please note we do not hold the requested information for our Emergency Department therefore the figures below refer to the number of patients admitted to a bed only. Please note we are unable to provide a breakdown of this data by age or gender as there are fewer than five cases per category.

Where the figures are fewer than 5, this has been denoted by **. Where numbers are low 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. Therefore under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we will not be disclosing this information at this time. Section 40 is the exemption for personal information

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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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