

Freedom of Information Request**Ref: UHB 17-710**

Date 5 January 2018

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

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

- 1. For each date, please could you confirm how many 'mothballed' wards existed across your hospital site?**
- 2. Please state the duration that each ward was 'mothballed'.**
- 3. How many beds were there across your 'mothballed' ward/s?**
- 4. What is the longest duration that any single bed was in a 'mothballed' ward?**

We do not use the term 'mothballed' at this Trust therefore we are unable to answer the requested information. If you are trying to establish whether we had wards that were physically capable of being an inpatient ward but we held back and did not open as such – then the answer to that is no for the dates you requested, this wasn't a strategy in place. Across the time period you have mentioned, the main adult BRI undertook a substantial restructuring which included the refurbishment of one building, the construction of a new ward block and the closure of a very old building. During this time wards were relocated and refurbished and at times there were wards empty but available to support this redevelopment, although the main bed base remained relatively static. Across adult and paediatric services we have escalation capacity available which we can use during winter pressures, this is made up of three types of capacity;

- odd numbers of closed beds within an existing wards which can be staffed and opened e.g. two or four beds in one ward;
- beds which are included in our bed base but are usually ring-fenced for certain types of patient admission, which in escalation can be used differently;
- or areas that are not used for inpatients routinely but can be changed use e.g. day case areas taking patients over night.

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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