

**Freedom of Information Request****Ref: UHB 17-750**

Date 11 January 2018

By Email

Dear Sir

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

- 1) Please could you provide me with a list of bodies that have been stored for over 28 days at hospital mortuary, broken down by gender, date admitted, time stored for, and if released, the date of release. Please could you limit the search to the past 36 months. Please could you provide the information in excel or csv format.**

We do hold the requested information however as it is not centrally held, obtaining the information in level of detail required will require a manual trawl which 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.

- 2) Whether you expecting any mortuary capacity issues due to cold weather this winter, and what your plans to deal with capacity issues are (if you have plans)?**

We expect higher numbers of deaths during winter every year. UHBristol has increased its capacity in the mortuary in recent years and do not expect capacity issues. However we do have standard contingency plans in line with the recommendations from the HTA. Please see the following link for further information  
<https://www.hta.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Capacity%20and%20Contingency%20Report%20Nov%202015.pdf>.

- 3) Can you estimate what percentage of cases are referred for a social funeral?**

Our patient affairs department reported that we had 29 adult social funerals in the last 3 years, which is approximately 1.3% of our adult deaths.

- 4) Could you let me know whether rising funeral costs are responsible for delays in bodies being released?**

We do not hold this 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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