

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 20-001**

17 January 2020

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

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

1. The number of instances in which a surgical instrument has been left inside a patient's body following a surgical procedure between 2015 and 2019 (up to present day and itemised by year).

- For each instance, please list:

- a. the type of instruments found during this time and where in the body they were discovered.
- b. The surgical procedure that was taking place when instrument was left inside body.
- c. The patient's outcome, i.e. if anyone has become seriously ill as a result of leaving an surgical instrument inside the body of a patient or if anyone has died as a result of leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (if this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).
- d. How many people have taken legal action against the Trust as a result of a surgeon leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (if this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).

Article	Location	Operation	harm	legal action	Year
Swab	Chest	Pulmonary valve replacement	Moderate	none	2017
Nylon tape	Chest	Cardiac surgery	Major	yes	2017
Nasal pack	Nose	Septorhinoplasty	no harm	none	2016
Swab	Mouth	Dental Root end surgery	no harm	none	2017
Dental retraction cord	Mouth	Replacement of a dental crown	no harm	none	2018

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:

Director of Corporate Governance  
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

#### Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

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

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**  
**UH Bristol NHS Foundation Trust**