

**Information Governance Department**

Wrightington Hospital  
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Ref: FOI2020/7076

Date Received: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Response Due: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**You asked:**

I'm sending a freedom of information request around asthma treatment and care for children in the UK. I've included the questions below and have also attached a file to this email to input responses.

**Please provide numbers spanning the last 3 years – please segment by year where possible (i.e. 2018, 2019, 2020 - to date) for the following questions:**

**1. How many children age 7 and under have been admitted/treated for asthmatic symptoms in your Trust in these 3 instances:**

**a. Have been diagnosed as displaying asthmatic symptoms**

This information is not readily available without a case note analysis being carried out. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients we do not ask our staff to interrogate them in order to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

Please see refusal notice below

**b. Have been prescribed home treatment (reliever at home)**

This information is not readily available without a case note analysis being carried out. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients we do not ask our staff to interrogate them in order to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

Please see refusal notice below

**c. Have been admitted to A&E / ER for emergency treatment**

Please see attached spreadsheet.

**2. For what number of children aged 7 and under was their admission to A&E/ER/Emergency GP (for asthmatic symptoms) their first instance of having asthmatic symptoms diagnosed and treated (i.e. the first instance of the NHS being made aware of asthmatic symptoms)?**

This information is not readily available without a case note analysis being carried out. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients we do not ask our staff to interrogate them in order to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

Please see refusal notice below

**3. How many children age 7 or under have had to be treated due over-medication of prescribed asthma medication? None known**

**4. How many children age 7 or under have had to be treated due under-medication of prescribed asthma medication?**

This information is not readily available without a case note analysis being carried out. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients we do not ask our staff to interrogate them in order to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

Please see refusal notice below

**5. What number of children age 7 and under are referred to a paediatrician/3rd party to help manage their asthmatic symptoms?**

This information is not readily available without a case note analysis being carried out. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients we do not ask our staff to interrogate them in order to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

Please see refusal notice below

**6. Yes/No: Has your trust seen a decline in parents seeking medical help for children aged 7 and under with asthma/asthmatic symptoms since March 2020?**

Yes, there has been a decline in parents seeking medical help since March 2020.

**Refusal Notice for question(s) 1 a & b, 2, 4 & 5** - The information that you have requested is exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act because it will take more than 18 hours to retrieve and extract the relevant information.

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. Regulation 4(3) of the Fees Regulations states that a public authority can only take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the

following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- ☐ determining whether the information is held;
- ☐ locating the information, or a document containing it;
- ☐ retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- ☐ extracting the information from a document containing it.

All public authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour.

This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded if it would require more than 18 hours work for all public authorities.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Arya  
Medical Director

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113