



**Wrightington, Wigan and
Leigh Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Tel: 01257 567235
Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI2021/7798

Date Received: 9th November 2021

Response Due: 7th December 2021

Date: 23rd November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from **Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust**.

I would like to obtain specific information regarding medicines wastage, medication errors and adverse drug events within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust. I would also like to obtain information on the uptake of prefilled syringes within an Intensive Care Unit setting, including the specific medicines used in prefilled syringes.

1. We are interested in receiving the following information for each year in the period from 2018 to 2021 (please include total and year-by-year breakdown):

a) The value of medicines wastage every year in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust in £.

We only have information on the pharmacy wastage as detailed by issues to out of date stock ward code.

Medicines wastage at ward or department level is not recorded:

Year	Value of Wastage
2018	£364.37
2019	£5,499.21
2020	£7,424.61
2021 to date	£18,996.64

2. We are interested in receiving the following information for each year in the period from 2018 to 2021 (please include total and year-by-year breakdown):

a) The number of medicines in prefilled syringes procured for usage in the following departments within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust:

- **Intensive Care Units;**
- **Accident & Emergency departments;**
- **Operating rooms.**

We do not keep this information segregated or automated and to determine this would require a manual review of the entire drug catalogue over four years for three separate areas.

The list will change over time further complicating this review.

This process would take more than the 18-hours stipulated by the ICO, so we are unable to provide this information.

Please see refusal notice below.

b) The names of the specific medicines which are procured in prefilled syringes for usage in the following departments within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust:

- **Intensive Care Units;**
- **Accident & Emergency departments;**
- **Operating rooms.**

We do not keep this information segregated or automated and to determine this would require a manual review of the entire drug catalogue over four years for three separate areas.

The list will change over time further complicating this review.

This process would take more than the 18-hours stipulated by the ICO, so we are unable to provide this information.

Refusal Notice for question(s) 2 a) and 2 b) - 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.

3. We are interested in receiving the following information for each year in the period from 2018 to 2021 (please include total and year-by-year breakdown):

- a) The number of recorded cases of medication errors and adverse drug events resulting from the medication preparation of drugs prepared from vials and ampoules within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust.
- b) The number of recorded cases of medication errors and adverse drug events where a prefilled syringe was used within Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust.

Although we do segregate our incidents in terms of high-risk medication, the lowest denominator relevant to this question is "injections". The Datix incident reports records the drug name and the form as "injection". It does not record device and so there is no way to differentiate between vials/ampoules and prefilled syringes. As such the data below is the number of medication errors/adverse drug events where "injection" was listed under the high-risk medication field.

Year	Number of Medication Errors/Adverse Drug Events
2018	103
2019	134
2020	61 (it has been acknowledged that incident reporting was generally lower due to the Covid-19 pandemic)
2021 to Date	112

Please provide the information in electronic form if possible.

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,



Gary Masterman
Associate Director of Pharmacy (Governance Assurance)

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, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

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