



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9

Buckingham Row

Brick Kiln Lane

Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2022/8553

Date Received: 21st December 2022

Response Due: 23rd January 2023

Date: 17th January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

Please can you provide me with the following information for the (calendar) years:

- i) 2017
- ii) 2018
- iii) 2019
- iv) 2020
- v) 2021
- vi) 2022

***If possible, can an age or age range be provided for each?**

- 1) The number of persons who visited A&E in your NHS Trust (WWL) for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?**
- 2) How many persons required inpatient treatment for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?**
- 3) How many persons required surgery for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?**
- 4) How many persons suffered fatal injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?**

Please find attached the figures for 2017 and 2018. In 2019 the Trust changed the way that dog bites were recorded. The presenting complaint changed to a generic option of 'Bites and Stings'. Therefore, we are unable to provide the information for these years.

Refusal Notice: Sec 40(2) Personal Information

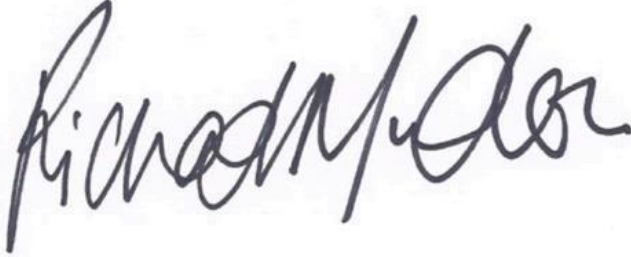
The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Mundon', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Richard Mundon
Director of Strategy and Planning

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 123 111