

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/2025/10591

Date Received: 17th March 2025

Response Due: 14th April 2025

Date: 11th April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 17th March 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to obtain data regarding the number of hospital admissions related to sunbed injuries. Specifically, I request the following information in whichever format is easiest to provide: SNOMED, ICD-11, or free text.

1. Sunbed Admissions (SNOMED)

The number of hospital admissions for patients presenting with sunbed-related injuries, classified under:

- **403588002 – Addiction to sunbed use (disorder)**
- **242537009 – Exposure to man-made ultraviolet light (event)**
- **466293001 – Ultraviolet tanning device (physical object)**

If possible, please also include:

- **Age group (e.g.: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85-94, 95-100, over 100)**
- **Gender of the patient**
- **Brief description of the reason for admission**
- **Treatment received for the injury**

The Trust has answered these questions based on a diagnosis code of W89X. Please see the response below.

2. Sunbed Admissions (ICD-11)

The number of hospital admissions for patients presenting with sunbed injuries, categorised under:

- **EJ41 – Burn from exposure to artificial source of ultraviolet radiation**
 - **EJ41.0 – Burn from exposure to therapeutic ultraviolet radiation**
 - **EJ41.Y – Other specified burn from exposure to artificial source of ultraviolet radiation**
 - **EJ41.Z – Burn from exposure to artificial source of ultraviolet radiation, unspecified**

If possible, please also include:

- **Age group (as above)**
- **Gender of the patient**
- **Brief description of the reason for admission**
- **Treatment received for the injury**

The Trust does not use ICD-11 codes.

3. Sunbed Admissions (Free Text)

The number of hospital admissions for patients presenting with sunbed injuries, provided in free text format.

If possible, please also include:

- **Age group (as above)**
- **Gender of the patient**
- **Brief description of the reason for admission**
- **Treatment received for the injury**

The Trust has answered these questions based on a diagnosis code of W89X. Please see the response below.

Timeframe

For each month over the past five years (2019–2024), please provide the total number of individuals recorded.

The Trust has answered this question based on the number of patients with a diagnosis of W89X – “exposure to manmade ultraviolet/visible light”. These are not necessarily admissions due to sunbed injuries as this code may include other sources.

Please see the figures below.

| Month/Year | Number of Patients |
|------------|--------------------|
| Aug-2019 | <5 |
| Oct-2019 | <5 |
| Jan-2023 | <5 |
| May-2023 | <5 |

*The above figures are the only attendances recorded with a diagnosis of W89X, all other months are 0.

| Age Group | Number of Patients |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Under 18 | <5 |
| 18-24 | <5 |
| 25-34 | 0 |
| 35-44 | <5 |

| | |
|----------|----|
| 45-54 | <5 |
| 55-64 | 0 |
| 65-74 | 0 |
| 75-84 | 0 |
| 85-94 | 0 |
| 95-100 | 0 |
| Over 100 | 0 |

| Gender | Number of Patients |
|--------|--------------------|
| Female | <5 |
| Male | <5 |

Please note the descriptions of the reasons for admission and the treatments received for the injuries has been withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the information would make individual patients identifiable. Section 40(2) is an 'absolute' exemption, and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

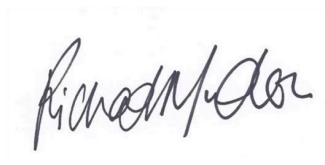
The Trust has a standard procedure of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

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 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Mundon
Deputy Chief Executive

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