

# Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2025/10592

Date Received: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Response Due: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do not hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

**I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to obtain data on NHS treatment of complications arising from surgical procedures performed overseas.**

## **Request Details:**

### **1. NHS Admissions for Complications Following Overseas Surgeries**

- The total number of hospital admissions where the NHS has treated patients for complications resulting from surgeries conducted abroad.
- A yearly breakdown from January 2020 to January 2025 (or the most recent available period).

This information is not centrally recorded, please see the reasoning below.

### **2. Breakdown of Patients Treated**

For each year, please provide where available:

- Age group of patients (e.g.: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+).
- Gender of patients.

This information is not centrally recorded, please see the reasoning below.

### **3. Data Classified Under Relevant ICD-10 Codes (or their NHS equivalents):**

**Please provide a breakdown of cases recorded under the following ICD-10 codes related to complications of surgical procedures:**

- T81 – Complications of procedures (e.g., infections, wound disruption, foreign bodies left in the body).
- T82-T85 – Complications of prosthetic devices, implants, and grafts.
- T86 – Failure and rejection of transplanted organs and tissues.
- T87 – Complications of amputations and reattachments.
- T88 – Other complications of surgical and medical care (including anaesthesia-related complications).
- Y60-Y69 – Surgical errors and misadventures (e.g., accidental punctures, foreign objects left inside patients, failure of sterile precautions, inappropriate procedures).
- Y70-Y79 – Medical devices associated with adverse incidents.
- Y83-Y84 – Abnormal patient reactions or complications following surgery or other medical procedures.

This information is not centrally recorded, please see the reasoning below.

**Clarification requested for Question 3:** Please can you clarify whether you only want the patients with those codes who were admitted following a “botched” overseas surgery?

**Response to clarification:** You are correct. I would like the data for patients with those codes who were admitted following a botched overseas surgery if that is possible, please.

#### **4. Specific Details on Procedures Leading to NHS Admissions**

Where available, please provide:

- The type of surgery the patient originally underwent abroad (e.g., cosmetic surgery, weight loss surgery, orthopaedic surgery, dental work, etc.).
- The intended purpose of the surgery (e.g., aesthetic enhancement, weight loss, joint replacement, reconstructive surgery, etc.).
- The type of complication requiring NHS intervention (e.g., infection, implant failure, excessive bleeding, wound breakdown, nerve damage, sepsis).

This information is not centrally recorded, please see the reasoning below.

#### **5. NHS Cost of Treating Complications from Overseas Surgeries**

- The total annual cost incurred by the NHS in treating complications from overseas surgeries.
- If available, an estimated breakdown of costs by procedure type.

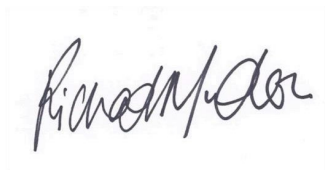
This information is not centrally recorded, please see the reasoning below.

The Trust is unable to provide a response to question 1-4 as the Trust does not have a dedicated data item that would flag patients whose admission was a result of a “botched” overseas surgery. The Trust is also unable to answer question 5 as these patients cannot be identified. These patients would need to be identified before a cost could be established for treating complications for overseas surgeries.

Therefore, the Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Mondon', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Mondon  
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