

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/2025/10736

Date Received: 7th May 2025

Response Due: 5th June 2025

Date: 30th May 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 7th May 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following data:

Please provide the following information in a tabulated format for two periods: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020 (pre-COVID vaccine rollout) and 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024 (post-rollout).

If exact figures are low (e.g., <5), provide a range (e.g., 1–2, 3–4) or confirm zero cases. All patient data should be anonymised.

Primary Requests.

- 1. Stage 3 or 4 Colorectal Cancer in Postpartum Women (2017–2020):**
For female patients under 45 years old diagnosed with stage 3 or 4 colorectal/bowel cancer (any subtype, e.g., sigmoid adenocarcinoma) who were postpartum (having given birth within 12 months prior to diagnosis):
 - a. Total number diagnosed.
 - b. Number who died within 12 months of diagnosis (exact number or range if <5).
 - c. Total number of deaths up to 31 December 2020.
 - d. Survival duration (in months) from diagnosis to death for each deceased case (anonymised).
- 1.1. COVID-19 Vaccination Status: If available, provide:**
 - a. Number of patients vaccinated (anonymised).
 - b. Vaccine type (e.g., Pfizer, AstraZeneca) and number of doses.

- c. Timing of vaccination relative to pregnancy or diagnosis (e.g., pre-pregnancy, during pregnancy, post-diagnosis).

1.2. Diagnosis Timing: Month and year of diagnosis for each case (anonymised).

2. Stage 3 or 4 Colorectal Cancer in Postpartum Women (2021–2024):

The same data as above (1a–1d) for female patients under 45 diagnosed with stage 3 or 4 colorectal/bowel cancer who were postpartum, except total deaths (2c) up to 31 December 2024. As well as the below:

2.1. COVID-19 Vaccination Status: If available, provide:

- a. Number of patients vaccinated (anonymised).
- b. Vaccine type (e.g., Pfizer, AstraZeneca) and number of doses.
- c. Timing of vaccination relative to pregnancy or diagnosis (e.g., pre-pregnancy, during pregnancy, post-diagnosis).

2.2. Diagnosis Timing: Month and year of diagnosis for each case (anonymised).

3. All Stage 3 or 4 Cancers (2017–2020): For all patients (all ages, all genders) diagnosed with stage 3 or 4 cancer (any type):

- a. Total number diagnosed.
- b. Number who died within 12 months of diagnosis (exact number or range if <5).
- c. Total number of deaths up to 31 December 2020.
- d. Survival duration (in months) from diagnosis to death for each deceased case (anonymised).

4. All Stage 3 or 4 Cancers (2021–2024):

The same data as above (3a–3d) for patients diagnosed with stage 3 or 4 cancer (any type), except total deaths (4c) up to 31 December 2024.

Concerning the Stage and Progression of Cancer:

The cancer stage at the time of diagnosis (Stage 3 or 4) for each case (anonymised).

If any cases were initially diagnosed at Stage 1 or 2 but later progressed to Stage 3 or 4, please indicate the number of such cases.

- 1. **Treatment and Outcomes:** Whether patients received treatment (e.g., surgery, chemotherapy) and outcomes (e.g., remission, progression, death), anonymised.
- 2. **Genetic Testing or Biopsy Analysis:** Whether cases underwent tumour genetic testing (e.g., APC, P53, MMR, KRAS, BRAF) or biopsy analysis for contaminants (e.g., SV40 promoter, plasmid ORI, spike protein). If so, provide anonymised results (e.g., mutation types, presence of contaminants).
- 3. **Reporting and Referrals:**
 - a. Whether cases or deaths were reported to the MHRA (e.g., Yellow Card scheme) or MBRRACE-UK.
 - b. Whether deaths were referred to the coroner, including number and reasons (anonymised).

The Trust is unable to provide this data as we only code Colorectal Cancer. There is no separate code for post-partum women, nor are the different stages coded. Therefore, this data 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Hazel Hendriksen', followed by a period.

Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

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