

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/2025/10830

Date Received: 12th June 2025

Response Due: 10th July 2025

Date: 25th June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 12th June 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 would like to request the following information relating to patients under the age of 18 who have been hospitalised due to the use of dangerous or illegal vaping substances – such as those containing synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. Spice), THC, or other unregulated/harmful substances – within your Trust.

Please provide the following:

- 1. The number of people aged under 18 who have been admitted to hospital due to the use of vapes containing:**
 - **THC Spice (or other synthetic cannabinoids)**
 - **Other dangerous or illegal substances**

Please break this down by calendar year, for the last five years (e.g. 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 to date).

The Trust is unable to provide a response to these questions as we cannot identify whether a substance or poison has been consumed via a vape. We also cannot identify THC specifically as our coding for this would also include cannabis. 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.

- 2. If available, please also provide:**
 - **The age and gender of the patient (anonymised)**

- **The diagnosis or description of the condition that led to admission (e.g. poisoning, psychosis, respiratory issues)**
- **Whether the patient required intensive care or critical care support**

Please see the above response.

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,



Garry Harris
Deputy Director Digital & Chief Technology Officer

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