

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/2025/10839

Date Received: 16th June 2025

Response Due: 14th July 2025

Date: 10th July 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 16th June 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

I am writing to request information on vegan options. I request the information below under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. Have you undertaken an equality impact assessment for vegans in hospital? If yes, can you provide a copy of the assessment?

No. An equality impact assessment for catering services for patients and staff was undertaken in 2011 for all 9 protected characteristics, but not specially for Vegans.

2. Are you following your public sector equality duty toward vegans? Please provide any documents or information to explain whether and how the PSED is being followed towards vegans.

WWL is strongly committed to equality, inclusion and promoting and celebrating diversity in all aspects of our work. As a public body WWL complies fully with The Equality Act (2010) which protects individuals against direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the basis of the nine protected characteristics.

Please see the Trust website for further information - <https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/inclusion-and-diversity>.

- Our sustainability responsibilities are always prevalent, and we are working with our colleagues in the Hospital Caterers Association to offer an increased range of plant-based options, utilising the NHS recipe book.
- We use the Eatwell plate as a guide and encourage the use of the guide to both aid recovery but also a daily healthy and sustainable diet to all.

- Education is available for staff to access via the intranet, this includes links to the NHS Eatwell guide, Healthier food swaps and links to the BDA for a variety of diet guidance.
- WWL has a stall where staff can buy a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, this rotates across the main sites.

3. Do you guarantee a full vegan option that is nutritionally appropriate on all menus and in all cafeterias at all times, for all meals, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack options.

The menu range available provides a limited variety of hot and cold options suitable for a vegan for both inpatient, staff and visitors. Suitable menu items are identified on the menu boards.

By 'guaranteed' I mean, is there always a fully vegan option available.

For clarity, a salad without a plant-based protein and starch or carbohydrate would obviously not be nutritionally appropriate, nor would having only fruit or toast with jam available for a vegan person. For example, many vegetarian options adapted to be vegan would not be nutritionally appropriate as they would be lacking in protein unless there was a substitution provided.

4. Do you guarantee plant milk availability on all campuses for coffee and tea? For clarity, plant milk refers to: Soy, oat, almond, or coconut milk.

Soy milk is available in all outlets.

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,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance 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