

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/2025/11101

Date Received: 30th September 2025

Response Due: 28th October 2025

Date: 22nd October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 30th September 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:

Please provide the following information, broken down by month, between January 2020 and September 2025 inclusive. If this is not possible, please instead provide it broken down by calendar year, 2020 to 2025 inclusive.

- 1. The number of patients who have died whilst on your waiting list to receive consultant-led elective (planned) hospital treatment — and who have therefore been removed from the list due to their death (If your trust calls this particular waiting list something else, please use common sense and provide the waiting list data most relevant to my questions).**

The Trust is unable to provide this information as the current configuration of our Patient Administration System (PAS) does not allow us to identify patients who have died whilst waiting for treatment in a reportable form. We could only provide a response to the question by auditing over 20,000 individual patient records.

Therefore, we are unable to provide this information as the information is not held in a reportable or structured format in our central system and records would have to be reviewed manually which would exceed the appropriate time limit. The Trust has to take into account the cost attributable to the time spent in locating, retrieving, and collating the information. We have therefore applied exemption Section 12 (4) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000-beyond appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is set at £450.00 (18hrs @ £25 per hour).

- 1a. If possible, please tell me how many of these people who died had been waiting for longer than 18 weeks after being referred for consultant-led elective hospital treatment?**

This information is being withheld under Section 12 of the FOI Act, please see the above.

2. **If possible, please provide a separate breakdown of the ethnicity of all those who died whilst on your waiting list to receive consultant-led elective (planned) hospital treatment over each of these time periods.**

This information is being withheld under Section 12 of the FOI Act, please see the above.

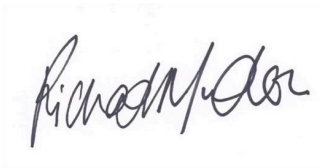
3. **If possible, for the people who died (those referred to in questions 1 and 1a) please tell me the postcode district (e.g, "SE6") of their home addresses. (For the avoidance of doubt, I just want to know the first part of the postcode that they lived in).**

I'm not asking for full postcodes or any individual addresses — only grouped, anonymous figures. These area groupings each typically include at least a thousand residents, so there is no risk of identifying any individual patient.

This information is being withheld under Section 12 of the FOI Act, please see the above.

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