

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/11213

Date Received: 7th November 2025

Response Due: 5th December 2025

Date: 5th December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Dear NHS Trust, Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you disclose the following information:

- 1. Since January 1, 2020, how many incidents have been reported to your Trust involving a wrong-site surgery?**
13.

Please note that this is any incident falling under the following definition: “A medical error where a procedure is performed on the wrong patient, the wrong body part, or the wrong side of the body.”

- a) For each incident, please provide the month, year and the type of surgery involved in the procedure.**

March 2020 = Nerve block - wrong site.
August 2021 = Block - wrong site
April 2022 = Pain injection - wrong site.
June 2022 = Biopsy - wrong site.
December 2022 = Wrong site surgery/procedure.
May 2023 = Drain insertion - incorrect site.
May 2023 = Finger injection - wrong site.
June 2023 = Wrong site surgery/procedure.
February 2024 = Joint injection - wrong site.
October 2024 = Joint injection - wrong site.
November 2024 = Incorrect tissue removed.

December 2024 = Biopsy on wrong patient.
April 2025 = Insertion of nephrostomy – wrong site.

- b) **In addition, please confirm the total number of cases reported between January 1, 2020 and November 7, 2025.**

Please see the response to Question 1.

2. **How many incidents fell under the definition of a serious incident, in line with the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (or, prior to that, the Serious Incident Framework)?**

13.

- a) **Please state which cases met this definition**

13.

Clarification requested: Under the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF), incidents are no longer classified as “serious” in the way they were under the previous Serious Incident Framework. PSIRF focuses on investigating events that offer the greatest opportunity for learning, rather than categorising by harm level.

Could you confirm whether you are asking for:

- Incidents that resulted in serious harm or death
 - All incidents that were subject to a learning response under PSIRF, regardless of harm level?
- These will all be NE (frequently reported as no or low harm).

Clarification response: To clarify, I am requesting all incidents that were subject to a learning response under PSIRF, regardless of the harm level.

3. **How many incidents led to serious, moderate, or slight harm to the patient?**

Moderate Harm = 11.

Low Harm = 2.

4. **What were the causes of wrong-site surgery incidents?**

The causes of the wrong-site surgery incidents include:

- Stop before you block was not performed / undertaken correctly.
- Incorrect area identified, head grid and hair clips not used to secure the patients hair.
- WHO checklist completed – rotated the patient on table which changed the patients positioning in relation to the USS machine.
- Training issues.
- Incorrect site marking.
- Deviation from LoCSSIPs, insufficient pre-op checks and ID checks.
- Consent form had the incorrect procedure details, and this was not identified at team brief via WHO checklist.
- Lack of review of the imaging to confirm the pathology prior to the surgery.

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,



Hazel Hendriksen
Director of Operations – Specialist Services & Surgery Division

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