

# 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](mailto:foi@wwl.nhs.uk)  
Web: [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk)

Ref: FOI/2024/9948

Date Received: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Response Due: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 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:

**1. Please provide the trust's Month 12 provider financial return from 2023-24. Please provide the returns in full.**

The Trust considers some of the information included in the Provider Financial Return to be commercially sensitive. In order to provide the information that would not be exempt under section 43 of the Freedom of information Act, the team would have to collate and extract the information from the original spreadsheet. The original spreadsheet was provided to the Trust by NHS England and is locked for editing; therefore, the team would have to manually input all data into a new spreadsheet. This would take the team over the 18 hours legal timeframe. Therefore, this information is exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 16 of FOIA states 16 — (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

In accordance with section 16 the summarised version of the Provider Financial Return will be released to the public once it has been laid before parliament. The PFR will be published at the following link: <https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/annual-report-and-accounts> There is currently a delay in laying NHS Foundation Trust annual report and accounts before Parliament due to the General Election. The delay is documented at the following link (see page 10): <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Timetable-letter-23-24-with-provider-annex-7-June.pdf>

**2. Please also provide the trust's provider financial return from month 1 2024-25. Please provide the returns in full.**

There was no PFR exercise completed in Month 1 2024/25.

**Refusal Notice for question(s)** - The information that you have requested is exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act because it will take more than 18 hours to retrieve and extract the relevant information.

12. — (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

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