

# 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/2024/9884

Date Received: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Response Due: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 28<sup>th</sup> May 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:

**The number of people who were treated at your Trusts A&E departments after presenting with issues related to tooth decay broken down by each of the financial years**

- a. 2018/19 = Unavailable due to changing A&E systems.
- b. 2019/20 = 18
- c. 2020/21 = 39
- d. 2021/22 = 23
- e. 2022/23 = 23
- f. 2023/24 = 21

**The number of people aged 18 and under who were treated at your Trusts A&E departments after presenting with issues related to tooth decay broken down by each of the financial years**

- a. 2018/19 = Unavailable due to changing A&E systems.
- b. 2019/20 = <5
- c. 2020/21 = 7
- d. 2021/22 = <5
- e. 2022/23 = <5
- f. 2023/24 = <5

**The number of patients referred for treatment at your Trust by a dentist broken down by each of the financial years**

- a. 2018/19 = 3,966
- b. 2019/20 = 3,411
- c. 2020/21 = 1,410

- d. 2021/22 = 2,613
- e. 2022/23 = 3,044
- f. 2023/24 = 1,791

**The number of patients aged 18 and under referred for treatment at your Trust by a dentist broken down by each of the financial years**

- a. 2018/19 = 1,632
- b. 2019/20 = 1,162
- c. 2020/21 = 369
- d. 2021/22 = 917
- e. 2022/23 = 1,126
- f. 2023/24 = 533

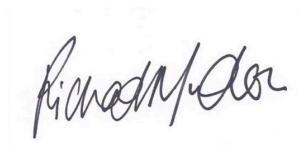
The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Mundon', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Mundon  
Director of Strategy and Planning

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