



# 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/2024/9621

Date Received: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Response Due: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 12<sup>th</sup> February 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:

**How many patient safety incidents in A&E, in which a patient suffered moderate, severe harm or death, have been found by the trust to be potentially avoidable?**

**Please break this down by quarter, back to the start of 2019/20. Please also break the data down by degree of harm**

**For each case of severe harm or death, please could you detail what happened, when it happened, the key findings from the review, and the lessons learned.**

The trust is unable to provide the data to the granularity required as this would make the individuals involved identifiable.

Quarter	Number of incidents
Q1 2019/2020	0
Q2 2019/2020	0
Q3 2019/2020	12
Q4 2019/2020	<5
Q1 2020/2021	0
Q2 2020/2021	<5
Q3 2020/2021	5

Q4 2020/2021	0
Q1 2021/2022	<5
Q2 2021/2022	0
Q3 2021/2022	<5
Q4 2021/2022	<5
Q1 2022/2023	<5
Q2 2022/2023	<5
Q3 2022/2023	<5
Q4 2022/2023	6
Q1 2023/2024	0
Q2 2023/2024	<5
Q3 2023/2024	<5

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,



Ehsan Haqqani  
Associate Director of Governance & Patient Safety

#### 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