

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/2024/9664

Date Received: 28th February 2024

Response Due: 27th March 2024

Date: 27th March 2024

Dear Sir,

With reference to your request for information received on 28th 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:

1. **How many patient safety incidents in A&E, in which a patient suffered moderate, severe harm or death.**
2. **Please break this down by quarter, back to the start of 2019/20. Please also break the data down by degree of harm.**
3. **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.**
4. **Please detail how many of these incidents have been deemed avoidable – and the reasons for this.**

	19/20 Q1	19/20 Q2	19/20 Q3	19/20 Q4
No harm/injury	0	0	0	0
Minor injury or full recovery in < 3 days	0	0	0	0
Short term (further treatment or procedure required)	<5	0	14	<5
Severe, permanent, or long term (including prolonged psychological harm)	<5	<5	<5	<5
Death caused by incident	<5	0	<5	<5

- 13 Avoidable
- 18 Unavoidable

	20/21 Q1	20/21 Q2	20/21 Q3	20/21 Q4
No harm/injury	0	0	0	0
Minor injury or full recovery in < 3 days	0	0	0	0
Short term (further treatment or procedure required)	<5	<5	<5	<5
Severe, permanent or long term (including prolonged psychological harm)	<5	<5	<5	0
Death caused by incident	<5	<5	<5	0

- 7 Avoidable
- 21 Unavoidable

	21/22 Q1	21/22 Q2	21/22 Q3	21/22 Q4
No harm/injury	0	0	0	0
Minor injury or full recovery in < 3 days	0	0	0	0
Short term (further treatment or procedure required)	8	<5	<5	<5
Severe, permanent or long term (including prolonged psychological harm)	9	<5	<5	<5
Death caused by incident	8	0	0	<5

- 6 Avoidable
- 33 Unavoidable

	22/23 Q1	22/23 Q2	22/23 Q3	22/23 Q4
No harm/injury	0	0	0	0
Minor injury or full recovery in < 3 days	0	0	0	0
Short term (further treatment or procedure required)	<5	<5	<5	<5
Severe, permanent or long term (including prolonged psychological harm)	<5	0	5	5
Death caused by incident	<5	0	<5	<5

- 9 Avoidable
- 14 Unavoidable

	23/24 Q1	23/24 Q2	23/24 Q3
No harm/injury	0	0	0
Minor injury or full recovery in < 3 days	0	0	0
Short term (further treatment or procedure required)	<5	<5	<5
Severe, permanent or long term (including prolonged psychological harm)	<5	<5	<5
Death caused by incident	0	<5	<5

- 5 Avoidable
- 10 Unavoidable

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:

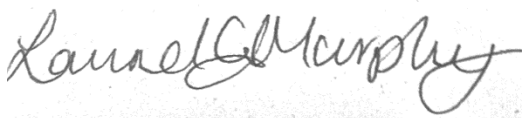
- a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved,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

Please note the details of the incidents are being withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing this information would make individual patients identifiable. Section 40(2) is an 'absolute' exemption and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

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,



Laurel Murphy
Divisional General Manager, Medicine

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