

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/2024/9690

Date Received: 7th March 2024

Response Due: 5th April 2024

Date: 26th March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 7th March 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 fatalities have been due to cancer wrong diagnosis or failure/delay diagnosis in the last three years (Between 2021-up to and including any data held for 2024)? For example: The number of incidents where the Primary Cause is 'Wrong Diagnosis' or 'Failure/Delay Diagnosis' and where both injury codes 'Cancer' and 'Fatality' are recorded? Can this be broken down by year and presented in PDF format?**

	Cancer - Wrong Diagnosis / Failure Delay Diagnosis	Fatality (death)
1 Jan 21 – 31 Dec 21	<5	<5
1 Jan 22 – 31 Dec 22	0	0
1 Jan 23 – 31 Dec 23	0	0
1 Jan 24 - 11 Mar 24	0	0

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,



Hazel Hendrikson
Director of Operations and Performance

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