

# 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/2024/9765

Date Received: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Response Due: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 8<sup>th</sup> April 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 figures the three longest stays in the trust's A&E department in for the year 2023/24 to date. If possible, please specify the month they each occurred and if there was a specific reason.**
  - February 2024 – 115 hours
  - March 2024 – 128 hours
  - February 2024 – 133 hours

The specific reason regarding each long wait is being withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act – please see below.

- 2. Please tell me the three longest stays in the trust's A&E department in 2022/23. If possible, please specify the month they each occurred and if there was a specific reason.**
  - April 2023 – 100 hours
  - July 2023 – 105 hours
  - November 2023 – 107 hours

The specific reason regarding each long wait is being withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act – please see below.

- 3. Please tell me how many patients were in the trust's A&E department for 24 hours or more before being admitted or discharged in 2023/24 to date.**  
7,484 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024)

**4. Please tell me how many patients were in the trust's A&E department for 24 hours or more before being admitted or discharged in 2022/23.**

5,295

**5. Please tell me whether patients are ever cared for in non-clinically designated areas during times of high demand in the A&E department? If yes, please could you specify where these areas are for example corridors, waiting rooms or relative's rooms.**

Yes, non-clinical areas within ED that patients are currently being cared for are:

- ED Corridor
- ED Waiting Room
- Waiting Area 3

Please note the specific reason for the long stays in A&E are being withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the reasoning 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,



Paritosh Desai  
Divisional Director of Operations & Performance (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