



**Wrightington,
Wigan and Leigh**
NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance

Wrightington Hospital
Hall Lane
Appley Bridge
Lancashire
WN6 9EP

Tel: 01257 256284
Email: FOI@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI2019/5597

Date Received: 9th August 2019

Response Due: 9th September 2019

27th August 2019

Dear

INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request information (if any) on plans you have/are planning to put into place in the coming years to make suitable your hospital in extreme weather. This year I note staff working none stop in bays reaching temperatures of 33 degrees, I have been told of staff and visitors fainting and feeling very unwell having to work during this heat. This issue is only going to get worse year on year as climate change affects temperatures, rendering the environment unsafe for staff

and patients so it is vital to see that WWL are taking the issue seriously and planning to make changes that will ensure the safety of people in their buildings. I'm sure health and safety is paramount to WWL so any reassurance is much appreciated.

WWL and indeed the wider NHS take climate change and the emerging government targets very seriously.

The wider NHS response to the issue which is part of the NHS Long Term Plan is being led by the Sustainable Development Unit and locally at Greater Manchester level by the GMHSCP who have established a Climate Action Group to support the development of:

- 5 Year GM Environmental Plan to action GM goal of carbon neutrality by 2038 and other environmental goals
- Implementation of a Clean Air Plan and a new national Clean Air Strategy
- Identification of clear environmental targets in the NHS Long Term Plan and the release of a new national sustainable development implementation framework from NHS England/Public Health England that allows health and care organisations to baseline their sustainable development work, measure progress and develop robust plans.

Instances of very high internal temperature are thankfully rare in Wigan with only a few days a year when internal temperatures currently rise to unacceptable levels. This does vary from ward to ward dependent upon location and the guidance to which that area was originally designed with respect to ventilation.

At local level we have over many years invested in sustainability projects which have contributed to an overall reduction in our CO2 emissions by 38% against the Climate Change Act target of 34% by 2020.

WWL has plans to continue to invest in major sustainability projects which will further reduce our CO2 emissions and costs to the NHS for example; widespread replacement of lighting with LED at our main acute hospital and the installation of a Combined Heat and Power Unit.

In addition we are also working on a range of low carbon measures which we believe will start to reduce internal temperatures. These are currently being trialled to assess effectiveness and include; increasing the size of opening windows without compromising safety legislation to improve natural ventilation – this will also facilitate night time cooling whereby the use of energy free cooler night air will limit the thermal run effect that some areas have seen in the past and the use of LED lighting instead of traditional fittings.

I trust that this information is helpful to you, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 488271. If we do not hear from you within 28 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 'Andrew Foster', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Foster
Chief Executive

PLEASE NOTE:

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. You must ensure you gain their permission before reproducing any third party information.

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, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF