



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

**Information Governance Department**

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Ref: FOI2020/6056

Date Received: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Response Due: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Madam,

**INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**You asked:**

I have been tracking data that has been reported on <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> and I am deeply concerned about the volatility of the data reported for Wigan. I would like WWL to report their data separately and independently so that Wigan residents can make better decisions for themselves through this very trying period.

When I say 'volatility' I am trying to describe instances where on the 25th May, reported confirmed COVID-19 lab cases data from 17th April changed. Or 31st May report was published, it included changes in the data on 24th April. Or when the report for 2nd June was published, changes were made to data on 1st May. It seems very odd that data for confirmed COVID-19 lab cases would change a month after the data was originally reported. I would expect changes in reporting that goes back a week, maybe? But not for a month. Please reference Appendix A of this letter for more details.

**Question One – Please can you explain why there are variations in the data reported for the same dates, as exemplified in the appendix a?**

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust submit data daily (once each day) and this does not get updated on subsequent dates. Therefore we are unfortunately unable to assist with the discrepancies highlighted in appendix A and appendix B without a source for the aforementioned data. Furthermore the number reported for Wigan each day will include patients that were not admitted to hospital or that were admitted to alternative hospitals.

Similarly, the initial COVID-19 related death toll gets reported late and inaccurately to the point where local media also reports inaccurate data. This is very worrisome for informing the public on the actual numbers so

that they can make wiser decisions regarding coronavirus accordingly. Please reference Appendix B of this letter for evidence.

**Question Two – Please can you explain why the initial COVID-19 death toll gets reported late and inaccurately, as exemplified in the appendix b?**

[Please see response to question one.](#)

With consideration that the Bryn Ward was built right here in Wigan, offering 50 additional COVID-19 overflow beds to support NHS capacity in the North West, I ask you to consider the following. Bryn Ward sets Wigan up to be a potential 'Hot Spot' or 'Reservoir' for COVID-19 infection due to its proximity in the community. Wiganers deserve concrete numbers and better reporting on the state of the number of people with COVID-19 occupying hospital beds, the number of deaths due to COVID-19, and the number of positive COVID-19 lab tests every day.

**Question Three – How many COVID-19 patients are currently occupying beds each day? (Provide information since records began)**

[Please see attached information.](#)

N.B. – Data provided is taken from submitted figures.

**Question Four – The number of deaths due to COVID-19 at WWLTH NHS FT each day? (Provide information since records began)**

[Please see the attached information.](#)

**Question Five – The number of COVID-19 positive lab tests at WWLTH NHS FT each day? (Provide information since records began)**

[Please see the attached information.](#)

Therefore, I would like an explanation for the reporting changes as described in Appendix A along with in future, more accurate reporting of the number of people within Wigan testing positive for COVID-19. I would like more accurate and concrete reporting of deaths within Wigan so that our local media does not continue to mis-represent the facts due to poor reporting from national government. I would like more accurate and concrete reporting of the number of people in hospital for COVID-19 as well. This information is vital to our community making all the right decisions for themselves and for their families as we're easing out of lockdown. These lapses in reporting that I describe here may cost more lives as we continue to navigate this pandemic. I believe that if WWL reports these publicly and independently, Wiganers will be better informed in making better decisions on how they treat easing of lockdown.

Appendix A

Date	23/05 Report	24/05 Report	25/05 Report	26/05 Report	27/05 Report	31/05 Report	02/06 Report	03/06 Report
16/04/2020	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
17/04/2020	39	38	39	39	39	39	39	39
18/04/2020	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
19/04/2020	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20/04/2020	31	30	31	31	31	31	31	31
21/04/2020	25	24	26	26	25	26	26	26
22/04/2020	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
23/04/2020	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
24/04/2020	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
25/04/2020	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
26/04/2020	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
27/04/2020	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
28/04/2020	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
29/04/2020	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
30/04/2020	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
01/05/2020	21	21	21	21	21	21	20	20
02/05/2020	14	13	13	14	13	14	14	14
03/05/2020	9	8	8	9	8	9	8	9
04/05/2020	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
05/05/2020	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
06/05/2020	16	16	15	15	16	15	15	15
07/05/2020	13	12	13	13	13	12	13	13
08/05/2020	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
09/05/2020	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
10/05/2020	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
11/05/2020	33	34	33	33	33	33	33	33
12/05/2020	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
13/05/2020	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
14/05/2020	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
15/05/2020	21	22	21	21	21	22	21	21
16/05/2020	9	10	10	9	10	9	10	9
17/05/2020	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	4
18/05/2020	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
19/05/2020	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
20/05/2020	1	14	16	16	16	16	16	16
21/05/2020	0	#N/A	2	2	2	2	2	2
22/05/2020	#N/A	0	5	5	5	5	5	5
23/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	18	27	27	27	27
24/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	0	#N/A	8	10	10	10
25/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	0	0	4	4	4
26/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	0	4	4	4
27/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	2	2	2
28/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	1	3	3
29/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	0	1	2
30/05/2020	#N/A							
31/05/2020	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	0	2
01/06/2020	#N/A							
02/06/2020	#N/A							

0 Last updated on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 4:01pm

Appendix B – No. Covid-19 related deaths at Wigan hospital Trust, reported by Wigan Today.

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,



Mary Fleming  
Chief Operating Officer

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, 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 at: