

Date: Thursday, 19th August 2021
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4859

Sid Watkins Building
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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4859

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 19th August 2021.

Your request was as follows:

Can you provide the number of COVID-19 cases that have occurred in both staff and patients at The Walton Centre, Sid Watkins Building between the dates of 20th July till the 18th August. We would like this data separated between staff and patients, providing a number for each.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold the information you have requested relating to which building that patients Covid cases have occurred in and also Covid cases for staff members. Therefore we cannot provide this information.

Under the FOIA, we are not required to create this information in order to answer your request. I should explain that the FOIA is to do with transparency of information held by public authorities. It gives an individual the right to access recorded information held by public authorities. The FOIA does not require public authorities to generate information, or to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that they already hold.

However I can confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) holds the information you have requested for overall patient COVID confirmed cases within WCFT. I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 21 - Information already reasonably accessible to you

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the FOIA, as it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you have requested is published on NHS England website. Please use the following link:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/>

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test. This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

Please see our response above in blue.

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in

line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4859 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information