

Date: **2 July 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5257**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your request below:

Your Request

Following procedures set out on your website, I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 for the following information on each Hospital under your Health Trust:

- 1. Various incident and mortality rates for acute bowel ischemia for each year over the period 2007 - 2018 (the table to be completed is attached).*
- 2. An explanation of how the rates have been calculated.*
- 3. Details of the **formal** processes, procedures, pathways and other means of diagnosing acute bowel ischemia used by the hospital and its health professionals (including but not limited to those used by the surgical team, nurses, radiologists, intensive care)?*
- 4. Details of any **informal** processes, procedures, pathways and other means of diagnosing acute bowel ischemia used by the hospital and its health professionals (including but not limited to those used by the surgical team, nurses, radiologists, intensive care)?*

*The information should be provided **for each hospital** rather than for the Great Ormond Street Foundation Health Trust.*

Our Request for Clarification

We responded to a further request for information the FOI Team received on 4 June 2019. This is because we noticed the request was identical to the previous request you submitted and being processed under reference number FOIRQ5257. We pointed out the wording in Line 18 of the Excel spreadsheet you attached with your request had been amended. We asked you to confirm whether the latest request we received was intended to replace your earlier request that was already being processed?

Your Response to Our Request for Clarification

Yes, I can confirm that it is an update. The request is exactly the same save for the wording in row 18. Thank you.

Our Response

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. The Trust does not centrally record the level of information you have requested. We have sought advice and assistance from the relevant teams to see whether any part of your request can be processed within the cost limit of 18 hours. This is the cost limit stipulated under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The Trust has estimated your request for information is too broad to process it within 18 hours; particularly as you have listed 24 questions to obtain a significant amount of information for each calendar year you have specified from 2007 – 2018. Even to process one of your questions and reduce the time period one calendar year would still mean contacting more than one department to conduct a local search of their records to identify and locate information; which also needs to be reviewed. Your request for information is therefore refused under the following exemption.

Section 12(1) (Cost Limit) of FOIA allows the Trust to refuse a request where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for section 12 purposes is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 SI 2004 No 3244 ('Fees Regulation').

Under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation the appropriate cost limit for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded, if it would require more than 18 hours' work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- determining whether the information is held
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

Please Note: Our clinical leads and specialists have confirmed that Ischemic Bowel is a secondary event caused by other reasons first; which is only identified when in surgery and is part of a bigger issue and not the primary event. There has to be a reason to cause or trigger the ischemia; but generally, if a patient shows signs of acute bowel ischemia they would be present with severe abdominal pain, vomiting (green) and abdominal distention. The following actions would therefore take place:

- Urgent referral to surgery
- Review by on call SpR

- An abdominal X-Ray (possibly)
- Discussion with On-Call consultant

The Trust does not carry out any other specific tests to look for bowel ischemia; but, if a patient had an acute abdomen as clinical presentation then a surgical intervention would be necessary.

Please note:

The information we have provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held up to the date your request was received by the Trust.

We trust the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your request for information. If, however, you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information team

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust
Email: foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk

[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI team and quote your reference number on all correspondence relating to your request.

You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team
Great Ormond Street Hospital
LONDON
WC1N 3JH

If you are still not satisfied with your response, you also have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF