

Date: **3 April 2020**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5738**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Your Request and Our Response (in bold)

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (the 'Trust') is a single site, specialist tertiary paediatric trust. Please see our response to your request for information below:

1. *How many 'never events' have occurred at your trust over the past ten years? (please break this down by year and speciality department, and if possible also include information collected for 2020)*

The Trust had 10 never events covering the last 10 years from 7 October 2011 – 17 April 2019. Please see the following table providing a breakdown for each incident:

Date of Incident:	Brief Description/Title
07-Oct-11	Retained throat pack
20-Dec-11	Displaced NG tube into patient's lung
26-Mar-13	Spinal screw end (ears) retained in patient
08-Jan-14	Wrong site surgery (removed wrong cyst from patient's head)
08-May-14	Syringe needle retained in patient's jaw
24-Jun-16	Misplaced NG tube
04-May-17	Spinal screw end (ears) retained in patient
20-Oct-17	Wrong tooth extraction
23-Mar-18	Retained swab in abdomen
17-Apr-19	Retained surgical instrument

2. *Details for each of these 'never events'. What happened? Were there any contributing factors? Please see our response in the attached document titled "FOIRQ5738 - Never Events" covering the last 10 years as specified.*
3. *How the issue was resolved for each? (i.e. ,was there any compensation involved and if so what was the total amount paid in compensation for these 'never events' by year and over the past 10 years?) Please see our response in the attached document titled "FOIRQ5738 - Never Events" covering the last 10 years as specified.*
4. *Has NHS England (or another body) issued guidance or any other form of support to prevent the occurrence of 'never events' in the future? The information requested is already published and available in the public domain. Please see note below***

Please note: **Section 21 of the Freedom of information Act (FOIA) 2000 is an absolute exemption; which means a public authority (the 'Trust) is not required to consider whether to disclose information when it is reasonably accessible to applicant by other means. Your request is therefore exempt under Section 21(1) of the FOIA. The information you have requested is accessible on NHS Improvement website via the following link:

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/never-events-policy-and-framework/>

Please note:

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

We hope the information provided is sufficient and helpful in answering your questions, issues or concerns. Should you have any further queries in relation to this 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
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[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]



NHS

**Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children**
NHS Foundation Trust

Your Rights

Should you have any questions relating to the response you have received to your request for information, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team. Alternatively, you are entitled to make a request for an internal review within two months from the date of receiving our final response to your original 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, however, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review then you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner as the final stage of the FOI process. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510