

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 9th May 2022

FOI Ref No: 16623

Requested Information

- 1) The full postcodes and the numbers of in-patients aged under 18 who have been are/receiving treatment for the following conditions in (a) to (f) below as in-patients:
 - a) Asthma
 - b) Cancer
 - c) Otitis media
 - d) All Acute lower respiratory infections, such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis.
 - e) Meningitis
 - f) All other causes of admissions with the exclusions of accidents or assaults, I do not request the causes for now.
- 2) The numbers of children who have died in your care either in hospital under 18 for the same time period and same conditions with the full postcodes set out in (1) (a) to (f) above

I seek the information above for the following periods:

23rd March 2020 to 22nd March 2021

23rd March 2019 to 22nd March 2020

These dates tie in with the lockdown period.

- 3) Children who have died in your care either in hospital or at home as out-patients aged under 18 for the same time periods and same conditions with the full postcodes set out in 1 above.

It is accepted there are confidentiality issues here, but when Councils are planning substantial housing developments and schools close to roads it must be right to discover if there is a health risk to building homes in these locations. This information may be over the usual cost limits, but it is the public interest for the it to be published. They are many articles linking child illness pollution one at:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41416-0...>

says

“A meta-analysis by Boothe et al.³¹ assessing childhood leukaemia in relation to multiple pollutants found an increased risk for post-natal exposure but no association with pre-natal exposure. Most studies found an association with childhood leukaemia overall, but the association tended to be stronger when examining just acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) or acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) for specific pollutants³². “

I wrote to you on 15th July 2021, and you replied saying you did have the data on types of child cancer. However, I apply again, this time to include asthma and asking for child cancer as a category rather than the types. I would be grateful if you could supply information about the conditions I seek.

Original Response

- 1) The Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust (RCHT) cannot determine whether an admission was for the treatment of a specific diagnosis. The question asks for 'numbers of inpatients receiving treatment for the following conditions', so although the RCHT may be able to identify patients with a specific diagnosis, the RCHT cannot determine if any treatment given was related to this diagnosis. The RCHT therefore cannot answer question 1, both because the RCHT are unable to isolate treatments for these conditions. If we were able to provide the above information, we would withhold the full postcode. Under Section 40 (2) 'Personal Information' of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).
- 2) Please find below a table detailing the number of the numbers of children who have died in our care either in hospital for the same time period and same conditions.

The RCHT has carefully considered your request to disclose the full postcodes relating to your request. We have decided to withhold the information under Section 40 (2) 'Personal Information' of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We are only providing you partial postcodes due to The Trust believes that there is a real risk of identification and therefore a strong likelihood of distress being caused, and the spirit of the Data Protection Act 2018 being breached (although the DPA does not apply to the deceased we still owe a duty of confidentiality)

	23/3/19-22/3/20		23/3/20-22/3/21	
	Number of deaths	Part post code	Number of deaths	Part post code
a) Asthma	0	N/A	0	N/A

b) Cancer	0	N/A	0	N/A
c) Otitis media	0	N/A	0	N/A
d) All Acute lower respiratory infections, such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis.	1	TR19	0	N/A
e) Meningitis	0	N/A	0	N/A
f) All other causes of admissions with the exclusions of accidents or assaults, I do not request the causes for now.	3	TR10 GL3 PL26	4	PL27 PL25 PL25 TR1

Although you have requested the full postcode, we are unable to provide this as if used in combination with other information which may be available it could lead to the unique identification of those involved. If you are dissatisfied with our interpretation of this, please consider making a request to the ICO for a review of our decision.

- 3) The Royal Cornwall Hospital do not hold the requested information of children who died following discharge.

Regards to your request relating to children with cancer, please note that due to the nature of the information that you are seeking, your request may be more appropriately addressed to Bristol Hospital because the RCHT has been in touch with our clinical coding department regarding this, and unfortunately the Royal Cornwall Hospital do not hold the relevant data to be able accurately answer your request.

Revised Response

Following your request for a review of our original response to question 1 of your request please find our response below.

I accept your trust cannot identify whether treatment was provided, however your trust can identify patients with a specific diagnosis, and I would be grateful if you could re-consider this issue and send me the specific diagnosis requested.

- 1) Please find attached the numbers of in-patients aged under 18 with the following specific diagnosis in (a) to (f) below and their partial postcodes:

a) Asthma

- b) Cancer
- c) Otitis media
- d) All Acute lower respiratory infections, such as pneumonia and bronchiolitis.
- e) Meningitis
- f) All other causes of admissions with the exclusions of accidents or assaults, I do not request the causes for now.

for the following periods:

23rd March 2020 to 22nd March 2021

23rd March 2019 to 22nd March 2020

Please find attached Inpatient spells where discharge date was between 23/03/2019 and 22/03/2021 (inclusive) and age on admission was under 18 years, split by specified condition.

Note that for the specified conditions, the patient can have any of the ICD-10 diagnosis codes listed for each condition in any position during inpatient spell. For the full list of ICD-10 diagnosis codes used for each condition then please review the second tab "Diagnosis Codes".

All other inpatient spells excl. accidents or assaults: this cohort excludes inpatient spells with any coded diagnosis for the specified conditions (i.e., asthma, cancer, otitis media, all acute lower respiratory infections, or meningitis) and excludes inpatient spells with a coded diagnosis for accidents or assaults. This cohort does include inpatient spells with no coded diagnosis.

Please note: A patient can have multiple coded diagnosis during their inpatient spell; so, a patient can have more than one of the specified conditions during their inpatient spell. For example, a patient can be diagnosed with "asthma" and "all acute lower respiratory infections" during the same inpatient spell and would be marked under both in this dataset.

Please note: This dataset shows inpatient spells with the specified diagnoses only, unrelated to treatments. We cannot identify patients being "treated for" a specific condition, only by their diagnosis which doesn't always result in them being treated for that specific condition

Discharge Date period - (all) shows all inpatient spells from 23/03/2019 to 22/03/2021 (inclusive). The filter can be set to 23/03/2020 - 22/03/2021, or 23/03/2019 - 22/03/2020 to filter for the relevant time period.

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust has carefully considered your request to disclose the full postcodes relating to your request. We have decided to withhold the information under Section 40 (2) 'Personal Information' of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We are only providing you partial postcodes due to The Trust believes that there is a real risk of identification and therefore a strong likelihood of distress being caused, and the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 being breached.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 - Inpatient spells where discharge date was between 23/03/2019 and 22/03/2021 (inclusive) and age on admission was under 18 years, split by specified condition.

Date Response sent: 28 June 2022