

Freedom of Information Team  
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust  
Great Ormond Street  
London  
WC1N 3JH  
E: [FOITeam@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:FOITeam@gosh.nhs.uk)

5 July 2022

Helen Cross

Dear Ms Cross,

**Re: FOIRQ6869**

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Your following request for information:**

*Please provide me with a copy of the following information:*

*The number of MSSA and MRSA cases that were recorded during March and April 2022, whether or not these cases were hospital acquired infections and the name of the ward where these infections occurred.*

**Trust Response:**

*Please provide me with a copy of the following information:*

*The number of MSSA and MRSA cases that were recorded during March and April 2022, whether or not these cases were hospital acquired infections and the name of the ward where these infections occurred.*

*Please see the table below which show the number of MSSA and MRSA cases recorded during March and April 2022.*

Alert Flag	Month	Specimen Type	CAI	HAI	PP	N/C
MRSA	Mar-22	Other	20	0	<5*	0
MSSA	Mar-22	Blood	<5*	<5*	0	0
MSSA	Mar-22	Other	0	0	0	69
MRSA	Apr-22	Other	10	0	<5*	0

MSSA	Apr-22	Blood	<5*	<5*	0	0
MSSA	Apr-22	Other	0	0	0	69

### Abbreviations:

\*HAI – Hospital Acquired Infection

\*CAI – Community Acquire Infection

\*PP – Previous Positive

\*N/C – Not Coded

Please note that the specimen type categorised as “other” will include all samples including routine screening samples taken on admission and every 30 days whilst in hospital.

\*Please note the Trust is withholding this information under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. The Trust is unable to respond to your request for information where a low number of patients of 5 or fewer (<5) is linked to specific medical conditions. We are withholding this information in order to reduce the risk of identifying an individual as disclosure would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and could potentially be a breach of their rights under the Data Protection Act DPA) 2018. We are also withholding a further breakdown of the information by the ward in which the infections occurred, in order to reduce the risk of identifying an individual as disclosure would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and could potentially be a breach of their rights under the Data Protection Act DPA) 2018.

The Trust categorises the information about our patients’ health as information falling under “sensitive personal data” where disclosing medical information to the public relating to our patients is likely to lead to emotional distress of the patients and their families. It is also the Trust’s position that there is a reasonable expectation on the part of the Trust’s patients and their families that their sensitive personal data would not be disclosed to FOI applicants.

The Trust has a duty of confidentiality and a breach of this expectation would have the effect of the data being processed unfairly, which is information that forms part of the medical records of an individual that is implicitly confidential. The courts and the Information Commissioner have long recognised the strong public interest inherent within keeping confidential medical information confidential. The Trust holds the view that Section 41 (1) of the FOIA is also applicable for the reasons that: the information was obtained by the Trust, it has the necessary quality of confidence (being neither generally accessible nor trivial) and disclosure of this information to a FOI applicant would give rise to an actionable breach of confidence. Your request is therefore exempt under Section 40(2) and Section 41(1) of the FOIA.

### Further Notes:

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**

Enclosed: Your Rights

## **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 Director of Safety Surveillance at the following address:

Director of Safety Surveillance  
Medical Director's Office  
Level 2, Barclay House  
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