

Freedom of Information Act Request

FOI request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am making this request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

How many incidents of a retained foreign object post-procedure were logged by your Trust in the past five years?

By 'retained foreign object post procedure', I refer to retained guide wires, mouth props, surgical instruments, needles, vaginal swabs, throat packs, etc.

Please break down this information by:

- The retained item.
- The financial year, covering April 1st - March 31st (2019/20, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25). For the latter, please provide information from April 1st to September 30th 2024.

Date range searched on: 01/04/2019:30/09/2024

Categorisation searched on: Retained foreign body and Retained needle/swab/instrument

April 1st - March 31st 2019/20,	*	*
2020/21	*	*
2021/22,	0	
2022/23,	0	
2023/24,	0	
April 1st to September 30th 2024.2024/25	0	

*= numbers lower than five

After careful consideration, we are unable to provide specific numerical data where the count is fewer than five. This decision is made to protect the privacy of individuals and is consistent with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Explanation of Exemption:

Section 40(2) of the FOIA exempts the release of personal data if it would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

- ****Personal Data****: The numbers requested pertain to very small groups, which could potentially lead to the identification of individuals, thereby constituting personal data.
- ****Data Protection Principles****: Disclosing this information would breach the first

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data protection principle, which requires that personal data is processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Releasing data where the numbers are fewer than five could inadvertently disclose personal information about identifiable individuals.

Public Interest Test:

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test. The need to protect personal data and the privacy of individuals outweighs the interest in disclosure in these cases.

Summary:

In conclusion, while we strive to be as transparent as possible, the information you requested includes counts fewer than five, and releasing such detailed data could lead to the identification of individuals. Therefore, we are unable to disclose this information under Section 40(2) of the FOIA.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to: [Internal review contact details].

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

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