

Freedom of Information Act Request

I would be very grateful if you could answer the following questions in relation to the impacts of different seasons on ear health:

1. How many patients visited A&E for ear-related conditions for e.g., ear infections, burst eardrums, hearing loss etc. during each month of the past five years (2020-2024)?

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2020 | 197 | 206 | 106 | 66 | 86 | 127 | 123 | 168 | 150 | 111 | 121 | 114 |
| 2021 | 113 | 109 | 118 | 135 | 136 | 171 | 191 | 170 | 175 | 186 | 167 | 123 |
| 2022 | 122 | 132 | 139 | 139 | 139 | 138 | 188 | 156 | 135 | 174 | 177 | 192 |
| 2023 | 130 | 130 | 147 | 147 | 170 | 151 | 169 | 158 | 133 | 165 | 136 | 185 |
| 2024 | 149 | 160 | 164 | 132 | 191 | 151 | 157 | 138 | 156 | 134 | 163 | 184 |

2. How many patients were admitted into hospital for ear-related conditions for e.g., ear infections, burst eardrums, hearing loss etc. during each month of the past five years (2020-2024)?

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2020 | 170 | 178 | 110 | 45 | 56 | 83 | 93 | 86 | 146 | 128 | 120 | 111 |
| 2021 | 99 | 96 | 118 | 133 | 139 | 145 | 167 | 102 | 118 | 120 | 118 | 120 |
| 2022 | 85 | 125 | 105 | 111 | 124 | 93 | 119 | 137 | 118 | 116 | 142 | 131 |
| 2023 | 174 | 152 | 182 | 152 | 155 | 205 | 171 | 153 | 160 | 214 | 215 | 226 |
| 2024 | 192 | 164 | 187 | 197 | 227 | 209 | 226 | 204 | 253 | 254 | 203 | 178 |

3. How many patients have been treated for recurrent ear-related conditions, for example, visiting more than once after having initially been diagnosed during winter (mid December - mid March), over the past five years (2020-2024)?

There were no readmissions for the same combination of diagnosis codes within 30 days of discharge.

However, this is only for readmissions to the Trust, likelihood is that if a condition has occurred again, the patients will visit their GP which we do not have data for.

4. Have there been increases in the prescription of antibiotics or other treatments for ear-related conditions during winter (mid December - mid March), over the past five years (2020-2024)?

We are unable to answer this question unfortunately as we don't hold data on indications for treatment. While we always ensure treatment is appropriate for the condition at point of supply we don't keep records of condition being treated.

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

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within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to
d.wraith@nhs.net.

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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