

## Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

I would be grateful if you could help me with this data.

From your hospital surgical database, please can you provide us with:

1. the number of Colposuspensions conducted in your unit between January 2020 and January 2025.

Of these, please clarify how many were conducted:

-open - 68

-laparoscopically - \*

-robotically - 0

2. How many of these cases have needed to go back to theatre for any procedure under the care of urogynaecology/gynaecology/urology since the initial operation?

Please state, what procedures they then underwent.

Numbers suppressed as less than 5

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.

The numbers requested pertain to very small groups, which could potentially lead to the identification of individuals, thereby constituting personal data.

Disclosing this information would breach the first 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.

Our Ref: 201

March 2025

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 [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto: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/>