

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your Trust. I am enquiring about catheter-associated urinary tract infections; please may you provide me with answers to the following:

1. How many patients received a urinary catheter in the 2024-25 financial year?
1123
2. How many Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs) were recorded in the 2024-25 financial year?
612
3. How many urinary tract infections (UTIs) were recorded in the 2024-25 financial year?
3205
4. What was the total cost of urinary tract infections in the 2024-25 financial year?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the information as requested because the scope of the question is too broad. The total cost of UTIs could encompass a wide range of direct and indirect costs across multiple services, including but not limited to hospital admissions, outpatient care, primary care consultations, prescriptions, laboratory testing, and wider system impacts. Accurately identifying and aggregating these costs would require extensive data extraction and analysis from multiple sources, which is not feasible within the time and resource limits set out under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

5. How many prescriptions were dispensed in relation to Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections in the 2024-25 financial year?

We are unable to comply with this request under **Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**. This section states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which is £450 or 18 hours of staff time for NHS organisations.

The reason we are unable to fulfil your request is that our pharmacy system does not store diagnosis information. As such, we are unable to directly link prescriptions to a diagnosis of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI). To determine which prescriptions were related to CAUTIs, the Trust would need to manually review each individual patient record to match the prescribed treatment with a documented diagnosis.

Given the number of prescriptions issued across the organisation, this process would require a significant audit effort and would exceed the time and cost thresholds set out under the Act.

6. How many patients received antibiotics in relation to Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections in the 2024-25 financial year?

We are unable to comply with your request under **Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, which states that a public authority is not required to comply with a request if the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. For NHS Trusts, this limit is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time.

Our pharmacy system does not store diagnosis information alongside prescribing data. This means we are unable to identify which prescriptions specifically relate to urinary tract infections. In order to determine this, the Trust would be required to manually audit individual patient records to match treatments to diagnoses.

Given the volume of prescriptions issued and the number of patient records involved, conducting such a manual audit would far exceed the time and cost limits imposed by Section 12 of the Act.

7. How many patients received two or more antibiotics in relation to a single Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection in the 2024-25 financial year?

We are unable to comply with your request under **Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**, which states that a public authority is not required to comply with a request if the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. For NHS Trusts, this limit is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time.

Our pharmacy system does not store diagnosis information alongside prescribing data. This means we are unable to identify which prescriptions specifically relate to urinary tract infections. In order to determine this, the Trust would be required to manually audit individual patient records to match treatments to diagnoses.

Given the volume of prescriptions issued and the number of patient records involved, conducting such a manual audit would far exceed the time and cost limits imposed by Section 12 of the Act.

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

Our Ref: 301
May 2025

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/>