

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

If possible, I would like to make an FOI request to obtain the following information email for the time period of 2023-2025:

1. The total numbers of **Emergency general surgery** operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic. For robotic surgeries please can this be further broken down into the type of robot in use for each operation (e.g. include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand).

Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic
0	812	0

2. **Type and numbers of robot** available in your trust and used in emergency general surgery cases (Examples include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand, Soloassist, Microhand S, AESOP, Zeus).

:- One Da Vinci Xi.

3. The total numbers of **Emergency general surgery** operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025 occurring during out of hours (weekends, nights)

Number of Admitted Patients
7785

4. Number of **robotic general surgery** cases (both emergency and elective) performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025.

:- We do not do undertake any emergency surgery on the robot.

:- We did not start operating on the robot until May 2024. The number of cases performed robotically since May 2024 is 134 General Surgery cases.

5. Number the following operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic (with robotic surgeries further broken down into type of robot used if applicable)

1. cholecystectomies
2. laparotomies
3. Laparoscopies
4. appendectomies
5. hernia repairs
6. Hartmann's procedures
7. Adhesiolysis
8. Small bowel resection

Operation	Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic
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Hernia Repairs	1742	276	12
Hartmanns	39	15#	
Cholecystectomies	1226	1213#	
Laparoscopy	22	5	0
Appendectomies	58	48	0
Adhesiolysis	1119	629	27
Small Bowel Resection	80	14	0
Laparotomies	20#		0

Numbers under 5 exempt as not to disclosure patient identity

6. Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic.
1. cholecystectomies
 2. laparotomies
 3. Laparoscopies
 4. appendectomies
 5. hernia repairs
 6. Hartmann's procedures
 7. Adhesiolysis
 8. Small bowel resection

Operation Type	Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic
Adhesiolysis	6.28	2.06	4.41
Appendectomies	9.20	2.04	
Cholecystectomies	3.20	0.83	0.33
Hartmanns	15.35	15.47	12.00
Hernia Repairs	1.34	1.81	0.83
Laparoscopy	0.94	8.60	
Laparotomies	25.65	8.67	
Small Bowel Resection	19.70	7.57	

7. The number and type of complications that occurred in robotic general surgery cases between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Including but not limited to conversions to another type of surgery, device-related complications, injury to surrounding structures or tissue, serums, infection, leakage, hernias, mortality.

After careful consideration, we are unable to comply with your request in its current form. This is because the information you have requested is not held in a centrally reportable format, and to locate, retrieve, and extract the relevant data would exceed the appropriate cost limit set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under Section 12 of the Act, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit, which is currently set at £450 for public authorities (equivalent to 18 hours of staff time at a rate of £25 per hour).

In this case, the level of detail requested — particularly relating to multiple types of complications, surgical outcomes, and robotic-specific cases — would require a manual review of individual patient records or operative reports to extract the data. This would be a time-intensive process that exceeds the cost threshold.

8. Number of staff trained to assist with robotic cases. —
 - ▬ 4 robotic colorectal surgeons , and then 8 assistants (7 x trainee surgeons and 1 x SFA)
There is another trainee SFA starting in June 2025
9. The average (Over 4 weeks) number of staff trained to assist in robotic surgery available out of hours (weekends/nights).
 - ▬ Not applicable - we do not undertake emergency surgery/out of hours for robotic surgery.

To elaborate emergency general surgery would include robotic assisted operations in any of: Acute surgical diseases of the abdomen, mesenteric ischaemia, appendectomies, cholecystectomies, hernias, bowel obstruction, adhesiolysis, diverticular disease, diverticulitis, incarceration, perforation, peritonitis, and acute conditions of the gastrointestinal tract.

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.

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/>