

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

We are looking into the rise of potholes on the UK roads, and if there is an impact on the safety of cyclists.

Please can you answer the following questions:

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, can you tell us the number of patients admitted to A&E for treatment as a result of an accident while riding a bike?

The Trust does not hold this information in a centrally reportable format. While cycling-related attendances may be recorded within free-text clinical notes or triage descriptions, there is no specific, structured data field that allows us to accurately extract and quantify A&E attendances solely due to bicycle accidents.

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, can you tell us the number of patients admitted to A&E for treatment as a result of an cycling accident caused by a pothole.

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, can you tell us the number of patients who needed to remain overnight in hospital for treatment, after being assessed and treated by A&E as a result of an accident caused by a pothole?

For the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, can you tell us the number of fatalities of patients, seen by your A&E teams, as a result of cyclists having an accident relating to a pothole?

We regret that the Trust does not hold this level of detail. Our patient record systems do not specifically code or record the presence of a "pothole" as a cause of injury in structured datasets. This level of causation detail, if present, may only exist in unstructured clinical notes or ambulance handover narratives, which are not routinely searchable for the purposes of reporting under the Freedom of Information Act.

A full manual review of individual records would be required to determine this, which would exceed the cost limit under Section 12 of the FOI Act.

Accordingly, we must advise that this information is not held in a reportable format. The Trust does not routinely capture or record the specific cause of cycling incidents in a way that would allow for accurate identification of pothole-related injuries.

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

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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/>