

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

I would like to submit an FOI request relating to information about patients presenting to Emergency Departments, or Accident and Emergency. The request is as follows:

I request that any data held for presentations to your Trust Emergency Department(s) where the reason for presentation has been due to a chainsaw-related incident. Please could you share data for the last 10 years for all presentations that are associated with use of a chainsaw.

I understand there are sensitivities in when relating to patients, so if you are able to provide the data as a whole number that doesn't identify any patient, that would be great.

Following a search of our records, we can confirm that Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust does not hold this information in a readily reportable or searchable format.

The Trust's Emergency Department systems do not contain a dedicated, coded field to specifically record "chainsaw-related" injuries. While such information may exist within free-text clinical notes, it is not structured in a way that allows automated reporting based on keywords such as "chainsaw."

To identify these cases, the Trust would need to manually review a large volume of patient records over a 10-year period to locate any references to chainsaw use. This would involve examining free-text notes and triage information for thousands of attendances, which would significantly exceed the cost and time limits defined in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12 – Exceeds Appropriate Cost Limit

Section 12 of the Act states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if the estimated cost of determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving, and extracting it would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours of staff time, equivalent to £450.

Given the volume of Emergency Department attendances and the absence of searchable fields for chainsaw-related incidents, we estimate that complying with this request would exceed this threshold.

Our Ref: 360
May 2025

We are therefore unable to provide the requested data, as the information is not held in a reportable format, and extracting it would exceed the statutory cost limit under Section 12 of the FOI 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 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/>