

Our Ref: 337
May 2025

Freedom of Information Act Request

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

I am writing to request information under the Environmental Information Regulations about heat in your hospitals.

I'd like to know:

1. How many complaints you have received due to "heat" "overheating" "too hot" "high temperatures", each year for the last three years. If you don't record complaints as such, please undertake a keyword search.

The Trust does not have a specific subject category for "heat" or related terms when logging formal complaints, and as such, complaints are not routinely categorised in a way that allows for direct reporting on this topic. However, in order to assist with your request, we undertook a keyword review of complaints logged with our Estates and Facilities teams over the past three years. Each entry was manually reviewed to identify any issues relating to overheating or high temperatures. Following this review, we can confirm that we did not identify any complaints related to heat, overheating, or high internal temperatures during this period. We are aware of one concern raised which related to the temperature on a ward at Bassetlaw Hospital. However, this was not logged as a formal complaint and is being managed via the appropriate channels.

A copy of or link to your most recent heatwave plan
[See attached copy](#)

- a. Number of surgery appointments (operations) cancelled each year for the last four years
- b. Of these cancelled, how many were cancelled due to overheating / heat / power failures due to heat,

The answers to questions 1a and 1b are provided below. Unfortunately, due to patient confidentiality requirements, we cannot provide exact numbers where the cancellations are below 5.

Year	Cancellations Due To Heat	Total OTD Cancellations	Context
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2021-22	Less than 5	684	July 2021 heatwave, plus theatre cooling issues in October
2022-23	8	806	July 2022 unprecedented heatwave & another significant heatwave in August
2023-24	0	559	-
2024-25	Less than 5	542	June & July 2024 heatwaves

a. Do you routinely measure the air temperature in your maternity wards?

Bassetlaw Hospital

A2 – No

LW – yes

DRI

M1/2- No

CDS – Only 2025

b. if so, how many times has it exceeded 26C, each year for the last three years?

Bassetlaw

A2 N/A

LW-12

DRI

M1/2 N/A

CDS-1

Ideally I would like the data broken down by hospital in your trust if possible. I'd like to receive this information electronically in a table or spreadsheet as such:

NB I am requesting this information under the EIR rather than FOIA, as it relates to the environment.

As you will be aware, the EI Regulations:

- Have a presumption in favour of disclosure (regulation 12.2).
- Subject all exceptions to a public interest test
- Have no exemption/exception on the grounds of cost or time
- forbid the application of four of the exceptions (12.5.d, e, f and g) to anything that relates to emissions – this applies to my request given climate change is increasing all temperatures and climate change is driven by higher emissions

Here is an example of previous FOI request to an NHS trust requesting complaint information, setting a precedent for disclosure of at least some of the information requested above.

https://www.salisbury.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information-foi/previous-foi-requests/foi_7435/

If you can't release any information because it risks identifying a patient, instead of refusing to answer the request, please state something like "fewer than 5" or "fewer than 10" as appropriate.

These are matters of patient safety and therefore it is in the public interest to release this information.

If you don't hold all the data requested, or if you believe some of the request to be "manifestly unreasonable", please release that which you do hold, or that which you can do within a "reasonable" amount of effort.

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

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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>