

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 Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding staff at your hospitals who work in theatres.

Please could you provide data for the past 10 years on the following:

1. The number of theatre scrub staff who have taken time off due to carpal tunnel syndrome or related injuries. ?

We can confirm that the number of individuals is fewer than five. However, we are withholding the exact figure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Personal Information. This section applies where disclosure of the information would contravene one of the data protection principles outlined in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Due to the small number of individuals involved, there is a risk that individuals could be identified when combined with other information that may already be in the public domain or known locally. As such, this information is considered personal and disclosing it would be unfair and unlawful.

Therefore, we are withholding this information on the grounds that it constitutes personal data, and its release would breach the confidentiality and privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

2. The total amount of time lost to these absences- Data not available- This is due to absences are reported as musculoskeletal absence and no further detail available.
3. The number of staff who have made claims or reported work-related carpal tunnel syndrome injuries

We can confirm that the number is fewer than five. However, we are unable to disclose the exact number as it is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Personal Information.

Due to the low number of individuals involved, there is a potential risk of identification when combined with other available information, which would breach the first data protection principle of fairness, lawfulness and transparency under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

As this constitutes personal data, we are withholding the specific figure to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals concerned.

Our Ref: 353
May 2025

4. Any policies or preventative measures in place to reduce the risk of carpal tunnel syndrome among surgical staff. **Nothing specific in place**

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/>