

## Freedom of Information Act Request

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

1. The number of hospital admissions resulting from dog attacks (including bites, maulings, or other injuries caused by dogs), each year for the past five years, up until the most recent data currently available.

If you have collected data for part of a year (e.g. up until June 2025) please provide that part year's data in addition to the preceding full five year period.

2. Please break the data down by:

- Year (including quarter and month if possible)
- Patient age group (e.g. under 18 / adult or more specific age group if available)
- Outcome - such as whether the patient was admitted, treated and discharged, transferred or died

3. If possible, include a short description of injury types (e.g. laceration, fracture, facial injury) or treatment type if coded.

If any of the above data is not held or cannot be provided, please explain why and provide any relevant data that you do hold.

If your hospital does not treat such cases (e.g. does not have A&E, trauma or plastics or paediatric surgery), please advise where such patients would typically be referred.

This information is not held by the Trust because incidents involving dog attacks are not coded as a distinct or searchable category within our Datix incident reporting system.

Datix is designed to record a wide range of patient and staff safety incidents using structured categories and subcategories. However, it relies on the reporter manually selecting the most appropriate classification from predefined options. There is no specific incident type or code dedicated to "dog attacks", and reporters may record such incidents under broader categories such as "Injury," "Aggression," or "External cause," depending on the context.

As a result, identifying and extracting all incidents specifically involving dog attacks would require a manual review of free-text fields across all incident reports, which would be both resource-intensive and exceed the appropriate time limits under the FOI Act.

Therefore, in line with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust confirms it does not hold the requested information in a searchable or reportable format.

Our Ref: 442  
July 2025

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](mailto: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/>