

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information for toxic shock syndrome (TSS) (ICD-10 code A48.3) for your trust's hospitals, for the period 1 January 2021 to present:

- 1. Total number of cases of toxic shock syndrome diagnosed (ICD-10 A48.3), by year (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025/2026 so far)**
- 2. The number of cases where TSS was linked to tampon use or menstruation, where this information is recorded in clinical coding or case notes**

Following a search of our records for the period 1 January 2021 to present, the Trust has identified fewer than five patients in total who had a diagnosis of toxic shock syndrome recorded anywhere during their hospital stay.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is unable to disclose exact figures where the number of individuals is fewer than five, as this could risk the identification of individuals when combined with other information that may be available. The requested information is therefore exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to personal data. Disclosure of small numbers could potentially lead to the identification of individuals and would therefore breach the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, specifically the principle that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently.

Accordingly, the Trust confirms:

- 1. Total number of cases of toxic shock syndrome diagnosed (ICD-10 A48.3), by year (2021–present)**

The Trust has recorded fewer than five cases in total during the requested period. Exact figures by year are withheld under Section 40(2) as disclosure would risk identification of individuals.

- 2. Number of cases where TSS was linked to tampon use or menstruation**

Where the number of cases is fewer than five, the Trust does not disclose further detail for the reasons outlined above. This information is therefore also withheld under Section 40(2).

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

Our Ref: 124
February 2026

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>