

Ref: FOI/CAD/ID 4034

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

9 June 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Blood cultures.

- 1. Who is the policy or clinical lead for blood culture best practice at your trust? Please provide a name, job title, postal address, email address and phone number.*
- 2. Does your Trust follow the Public Health England SMI guidelines for blood cultures?*
- 3. How many blood culture sets are taken for each suspected case of (a) sepsis and (b) other bacterial infection, and where there is more than one blood culture set taken are these taken from different sites - please provide an answer for both (a) and (b).*
- 4. How many individual blood cultures were taken at your trust in the following years: (a) 2012/13 (b) 2013/14 (c) 2014/15 (d) 2015/16 (e) 2016/17?*
- 5. How many individual blood cultures were identified as being contaminated in the following years: (a) 2012/13 (b) 2013/14 (c) 2014/15 (d) 2015/16 (e) 2016/17?*

1. Lead Consultant Microbiologist. The Trust considers the names and telephone numbers requested exempt under Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 40(2) (personal information) as it relates to the personal information of employees. These members of staff are not of sufficient senior level where there is reasonable expectation that this information would be released into the public domain.

The Trust follows guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office on the disclosure of personal data including direct contact details.

2. Mainly but not entirely. The SMI states blood cultures need to be loaded within a certain time. This has not been possible with two labs one on each site of two hospitals within the Trust 14 miles apart.
3. a) at least one b) SE at least three – yes
4. a) 10,865, b) 11,998, c) 13,797, d) 14,155 e) 15,222
5. This data has not been collected