

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5213

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28 January 2019

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 Spider bites.

You asked:

- *How many patients have you treated for suspected and/or diagnosed spider bites in the last five years?*
- *Can I please have a yearly breakdown on those figures for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018?*
- *Can I please request a brief description of the treatment carried out, date of treatment, age and gender of the patient.*
- *Where possible, can you indicate what type of spider was suspected of causing the bite?*

Trust response:

Please note: The system used in the A&E department does not hold sufficient information to answer in the detail requested. The option in A&E is 'bites & stings', which is everything including dog bites and wasp stings.

The System does not report specifics of treatment in order to determine the genus of spider involved.

Once a patient has been admitted only venomous spider admissions are showing.

No details of treatment are available, and no details of the type of spider.

Dates and precise ages are not being disclosed, as the combination of data points starts to make the data patient identifiable when the diagnosis is a rare or obscure one.

The following information relies on secondary diagnoses only.

Also note that NO conclusions can be drawn from the fact that there were three last year compared to just two over the previous four years, as the numbers are too small to have any statistical significance, and the increased use of Clinical Decision Unit since early 2017 means these patients are now more likely to show up as admissions.

2014: 1 female, Age 18-40

2015: None recorded

2016: None recorded

2017: 1 female, Age 18-40

2018: 1 female, Age 18-40
1 male, age 18-40
1 male, age 65-80