

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5922

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
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Maidstone, Kent
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Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

14 September 2020

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 Surgical tools.

You asked:

1) The number of instances in which a surgical instrument has been left inside a patient's body following a surgical procedure between 2015 and 2019 (up to present day and itemised by year).

- For each instance, please list:

a) the type of instruments found during this time and where in the body they were discovered.

b) The surgical procedure that was taking place when instrument was left inside body.

c) The patient's outcome, i.e. if anyone has become seriously ill as a result of leaving an surgical instrument inside the body of a patient or if anyone has died as a result of leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (if this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).

d) How many people have taken legal action against the Trust as a result of a surgeon leaving a surgical instrument inside the body of a patient. (if this exceeds the scope of the request please inform me before omitting it).

Trust response:

Q's 1. a. b. and c.

Under Section 21 of the Act we are not required to provide information in response to a request if the information is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested can be found in the Quality Accounts on

the website using the following link/s: <https://www.mtw.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/>

1d. One. Further information may be obtained from the NHS Resolution who manage negligence and other claims against the NHS in England on behalf of their member organisations.

The link to the NHS R website is below:

www.resolution.nhs.uk