

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5086

Please reply to:
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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 OPEL 4.

You asked:

- 1. How many days has your trust been on Opel 4 (formerly Black Alert) in the last 12 months (September 2017 – September 2018)? Can you please state the dates you were on Opel 4?*
- 2. What was the longest period your trust was on Opel 4 in the last five years (up to September 2018)? Can you please state the start and finish dates?*

Trust response:

- OPEL levels are an operational management tool for internal use
- OPEL ratings can change several times during the course of a day and so only provide a snapshot for a very short period of time - and are therefore not helpful to share externally
- Providing a running commentary on OPEL levels would create a misleading and confusing picture of performance
- The level of pressure in a system is not judged by an individual trust but on the situation in the wider local health and social care system
- A better gauge of performance is the regularly reported sitrep data published every Thursday by NHSE