

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5802

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 Alcohol-related attendances and admissions.

You asked:

1. *Within your Trust, how many alcohol-related A&E attendances (where alcohol is the primary attendance reason) per site between;*
 - a) *1st November 2013 and 2nd January 2014*
 - b) *1st November 2018 and 2nd January 2019*
2. *Within your Trust, how many alcohol-related A&E admissions (where alcohol is the primary admittance reason) per site between;*
 - a) *1st November 2013 and 2nd January 2014*
 - b) *1st November 2018 and 2nd January 2019*

Trust response:

1. The Trust cannot answer this question as our A&E system does not hold that level of detail in a reportable format.
2.
 - a) 52 emergency admissions with a primary diagnosis code indicating alcohol between 01-Nov-13 and 02-Jan-14
 - b) 73 of same between 01-Nov-18 and 02-Jan-19.

However, these figures are NOT comparable. In the last 5 years, we have expanded the use of our Clinical Decision & Ambulatory / Assessment units, Patients are now being counted as admissions who would have previously been treated in ED & gone home. We counted 21 admissions in 2013 that were overnight and went further than CDU or Ambulatory / Assessment, and 19 in 2018. This would be a comparable count.

Note that none of these differences pass a simple statistical significance test.

Note also that most of the diagnosis codes being picked up in this query are indicative of long term alcohol abuse.