

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6616 FU

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 the date of discharge or date of death of patients with hospital acquired Covid-19 since 1st March 2020.

You asked:

Thanks very much, but can you specify which figures relate to a patient who was discharged and which relate to a patient who died?

Trust response:

The Trust has responded on two occasions with information relating to the dates the hospital acquired Covid-19 was discovered and the dates those patients were discharged or died.

The Trust will not provide further more detailed information as this may provide sufficient information to allow for the patient to be identified.

You will also appreciate that patient identifiable information is, by its very nature, owed a duty of confidence, the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person. Section 41 (FOI) provides an absolute exemption for information meeting this definition. Whilst health records relating to deceased people do not carry a common law duty of confidentiality, it is Department of Health and General Medical Council policy that records relating to deceased people should be treated with the same level of confidentiality as those relating to living people. Access to the health records of a deceased person is governed by the Access to Health Records Act 1990.