

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7003

**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 3 or 4.

*You asked:*

*For each day of the past 24 months, how many days has your hospital trust declared an OPEL 3 or 4.*

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