

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7066

Please reply to:
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Trust Management
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25 November 2021

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 Superstition and the numbering of bed spaces or wards; focusing on the number 13.

You asked:

We are undertaking a review of hospitals within the UK to see if superstition plays any role in the numbering of bed spaces or wards; focusing on the number 13. We would like to know the following:

- 1. Do any of the hospitals within your trust have numbered wards? If so, which?*
 - a. Of these hospitals, do any have a ward numbered 13? If so, which?*
 - b. Additionally, these hospitals with numbered wards, are there wards numbered 12 and 14? (i.e. suggesting the intentional omission of a ward 13) If so, which hospitals?*
- 2. Do the wards in your hospitals have numbered bed spaces? If so, which?*
 - a. Of these hospitals, do any of the wards have a bed space 13? If so, which?*
 - b. Additionally, these hospital wards with numbered bed spaces, are there bed spaces numbered 12 and 14? (i.e. suggesting the intentional omission of a bed space 13) If so, which hospitals?*

Trust response:

1. Yes Tunbridge Wells Hospital
 - a. No
 - b. No. Please see the internal map on our website.
https://www.mtw.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TUNBRIDGE_PEMB-16-GUIDE-map-1_12.pdf
2. If numbered by Clinical staff.
 - a. We do not believe so.
 - b. The Estates Team do not number bed spaces on their plans of the hospital sites, it would be shown as a 6 bed Bay for example. Clinical staff may

number their bed spaces but this detail is not held centrally. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request as we would need to gather the information from the Ward Managers for every ward over both Trust sites. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.