

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7885

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone, Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
www.mtw.nhs.uk

27 January 2023

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 dog bites or attacks.

You asked:

Please can you provide me with the following information for the (calendar) years:

i) 2017 ii) 2018 iii) 2019 iv) 2020 v) 2021 vi) 2022

**If possible, can an age or age range be provided for each?*

1) The number of persons who visited A&E in your NHS Trust (Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells) for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?

2) How many persons required inpatient treatment for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?

3) How many persons required surgery for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?

4) How many persons suffered fatal injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?

Trust response:

1. Information is not available – Emergency Department diagnostic coding is not sufficient to allow this level of detail. It may be possible that this information has been entered into a patients record but in order to confirm this each patient record would need to be manually checked by a clinical staff member. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. 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.

2. Please note: The Trust uses the code for Bitten or struck by dog. This code will not be in the primary diagnosis position. Below is a list of patients who

have this code in one of the secondary diagnosis positions. This does not mean that they came into the Trust because of injuries caused by dog bites or attacks.

Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band
2017	5	0-20	2018	5	0-20	2019	4	0-20
2017	7	21-40	2018	10	21-40	2019	11	21-40
2017	4	31-50	2018	7	31-50	2019	10	31-50
2017	12	41-60	2018	8	41-60	2019	9	41-60
2017	2	51-70	2018	16	51-70	2019	5	51-70
2017	8	70+	2018	11	70+	2019	12	70+

Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band
2020	4	0-20	2021	3	0-20	2022	10	0-20
2020	5	21-40	2021	6	21-40	2022	7	21-40
2020	7	31-50	2021	6	31-50	2022	5	31-50
2020	7	41-60	2021	9	41-60	2022	6	41-60
2020	6	51-70	2021	6	51-70	2022	4	51-70
2020	4	70+	2021	7	70+	2022	6	70+

3. Please note: It cannot be assumed that these patients had surgery because of a dog bite or attack but that they had the code mentioned above in one of the secondary diagnosis positions.

Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band
2017	3	21-40	2018	4	0-20	2019	2	0-20
2017	6	41-60	2018	3	21-40	2019	4	21-40
2017	1	51-70	2018	3	31-50	2019	4	31-50
2017	2	70+	2018	3	41-60	2019	2	41-60
			2018	5	51-70	2019	3	51-70
			2018	6	70+	2019	4	70+

Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band	Year	Count of patients	Age Band
2020	2	0-20	2021	1	0-20	2022	6	0-20
2020	2	21-40	2021	1	21-40	2022	1	21-40
2020	3	31-50	2021	1	31-50	2022	1	31-50
2020	4	41-60	2021	3	41-60	2022	2	41-60
2020	2	51-70	2021	3	51-70	2022	3	51-70
2020	1	70+	2021	2	70+	2022	1	70+

4. It cannot be assumed that that anyone died because of a dog bite or attack. One patient met the criteria that they had the code mentioned above in one of the secondary diagnosis positions.

The Trust will not provide the level of data requested 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.