

Reference Number: FOI202223/380
From: Private Individual
Date: 02 November 2022
Subject: Number of appendicitis identified/treated by year from 2015 to date

Q1 Could you kindly provide figures for the number of cases of appendicitis identified/treated under your Trusts by year from 2015 to date?

Please group the figures by age groups under 18, from 18 to 49, from 50 to 69 and from 70 and over. Please also include, in the same grouping, the number of deaths as a result of these cases.

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Year	Age Under 18yrs	18 - 49 yrs	50 to 69 yrs	70yrs & Over
2015	182			
2016	173			
2017	185			
2018	168			
2019	159			
2020	113			
2021	115	Section 40		
2022 -Oct22	91			

The Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.

- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the “physical or mental health or condition” of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.

Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold information about deaths due to appendicitis centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to ascertain the data the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.