

**Reference Number:** FOI202223/542  
**From:** Press/Media  
**Date:** 18 January 2023  
**Subject:** Admissions involving a knife

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. Please see below a request for the following information relating to offences involving a knife blade or sharply pointed article.

For each question, I would like data for each of the following time periods:

- January 2020 – December 2020
- January 2021 – December 2021
- January 2022 – December 2022

Q1 a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been recorded as being a seriously injured by a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

A1 a:

	2020	2021	2022
Total	8	18	8

b: Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.

Q2 a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been recorded as being a fatal victim by a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

A2 a: Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.

b: Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.

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.