

Reference Number: FOIAH2425/288
From: Press/Media
Date: 29 August 2024
Subject: toxicological screening procedures for individuals who present themselves to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments and identify themselves as individuals who believe they might have been administered a substance without their consent

I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the toxicological screening procedures for individuals who present themselves to Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments and identify themselves as individuals who believe they might have been administered a substance without their consent.

To aid your understanding, this request pertains to procedures, information, testing, and advice, offered to those who would colloquially be referred to as individuals who believe they might have been “drugged” or “roofied”.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

Q1 What are the standard procedures for conducting screenings for individuals who believe they might have been administered a substance without their consent upon presenting to A&E?

A1 Alder Hey is a children's hospital and as such any concern that a child may have been administered a substance without their consent we would follow our safeguarding practices, in line with national guidance.

Q2 Are there specific protocols for these situations, and if so, what are they? If there is a document, flow chart or any other materials, pertaining to these procedures, please can these be attached to your reply.

A2 As per A1

Q3 What information is given to patients regarding the utility and limitations of testing conducted in your A&E setting, including the context of potential law enforcement or justice processes, if any?

If there is a document, flow chart or any other materials, provided to patients, please can these be attached to your reply.

A3 As per A1

Q4 Does this information make clear whether or not tests conducted in A&E are admissible in court? If so, what does it state?

A4 As per A1

Q5 What advice or support is provided to individuals during and after the screening process?

A5 As per A1

Q6 Are there any follow-up procedures or referrals to other support services offered to these individuals?

A6 As per A1

Q7 What is the scope of screening conducted in your A&E? If available, what type of testing is used.

A7 As per A1

Q8 Are any specific drugs or substances prioritised or given special attention during these screenings?

A8 As per A1

Q9 Have A&E staff had specific and dedicated training about spiking? If so, please provide details of this training.

A9 As per A1