

Freedom of Information Request - FOI2024/025

22 April 2024

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request.

1. The number of hospital admissions over the last five years (including 2024, where possible) where air pollution has contributed to the admission. For example, asthma or COPD induced or worsened by air pollution exposure.
2. The number of deaths recorded over the last five years (including 2024, where possible) where air pollution is related to the cause of death. For example, when a patient has died as a result of acute or chronic respiratory failure, a severe asthma attack or COPD which was worsened by air pollution exposure.

Please could you provide this information by email, preferably in spreadsheet format.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

I have considered your request and have set out the Trust's response below:

1. The table below contains all admissions where the patient had a diagnosis of exposure to air contaminants or a primary diagnosis of a respiratory condition that could be induced/worsened by air pollution. 2023/24 data is up to Feb 24.

Year	Exposure to Air Contaminants	Asthma (primary diagnosis)
2018/19	*less than 6	*less than 6
2019/20	*less than 6	6
2020/21	*less than 6	*less than 6
2021/22	*less than 6	*less than 6
2022/23	*less than 6	7
2023/24	8	13

* Please note that the exact number of patients has been withheld and instead a range of below 6 has been provided, as this relates to a low number. Statistically low information can potentially identify individuals' data, especially due to the rural nature and low population of the county. It would be, in my view, possible to identify them if this data were to be provided to you. The data

therefore consists of personal data and as such has been withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. The information that you have requested is not held in a form that would enable it to be located, retrieved and extracted within the appropriate time limit that equates to 18 hours as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limits and Fees) Regulations 2004.

To see if any of these case were caused by this, we would have to search each individual record, which would take on average 15mins. From death certificates that could fall into the scope, we have 1308 between 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2023

Based on 1308 records needing to be searched, and the search taking approximately 15mins, this would take approximately 327 hours to complete. Where the appropriate limit is exceeded the Trust is not required to supply the information as per Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Due to the way the information is held, we cannot advise how to reduce this timeframe. We can provide the information for question 1 and the following information. We have found 1308 patients between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2023 with one or more of these key words in any of the cause fields: Airway, Respiratory, Asthma, COPD, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease on their death certificate. However, none of these had "pollution" or "air" on their own.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer