

Freedom of Information is located at:
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Hereford, HR1 2BG
freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk

INFORMATION REQUEST FOI2022/291

31 October 2022

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information on the number of staff impacted by Long Covid working in your trust.

1. Could you state the number of staff members who were recorded to have had Long Covid while working for your trust at any time in the period between October 2021 - October 2022?
2. Could you state all leave of absences taken where Long Covid was cited as the cause between October 2021 - October 2022 and the length of time each absence lasted for.
3. Does your trust offer any specialised support for staff members living with Long Covid? If so could you please provide details of these services?

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

1. Long Covid is not recorded as a specific sickness reason for coding staff absence. In order to provide the information requested, we would therefore need to look at the individual sickness records of staff where the sickness coding may indicate Long Covid. This means that the information 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. 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. You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the cost to within the appropriate limit, such as for coverage of a shorter time period. Please contact me if you would like to do this.
2. The response is the same as to question 1.
3. The Trust does not offer any specialised support for staff members living with long COVID, but sign posts them back to their GPs and to the internet for information.

Please note that a record of previous Trust FOI responses is now available to consult online by visiting:

<https://www.wyevalley.nhs.uk/about-us/information-requests/freedom-of-information-requests.aspx>

If you have queries or any concerns my contact details are given at the top of the letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your request and wish to ask for a review of this, please contact me and I will arrange this to be done.

Further information is available from the Information Commissioner's Office who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Web site: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Coordinator

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm