

Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-581

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 29th May 2025

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 22nd November 2024 sent to our communications team, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000): Slips or Falls on Ice.

We apologise for the delay.

On 22nd November 2024 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification. To continue with your request we require clarification on the following:

The codes you mention seem to be Clinical Codes and we're not sure what incidents you are referring to. Do you mean accidents that generate a Datix i.e. persons are injured on Trust Estate or where our employees are injured off site during the course of their duties and where the Datix captures the various causes and types of surfaces or elevation etc and if so, are you only referring to persons who are injured and attend treatment thereby generating various clinical Codes?

Or are you requesting data relating to patients who presented to UHNM for treatment which could have occurred anywhere including out and about down the high street or at home?

On 25th November 2024 you replied via email with:

'I am requesting data relating to patients who presented to UHNM for treatment which could have occurred anywhere including out and about down the high street or at home.'

Q1 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request the following information regarding incidents and admissions related to slipping or falling on snow or ice.

1. Data Requested:

Please provide the number of incidents recorded in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 that are classified under the following codes or descriptions:

- ICD-10 5th Edition:
 - o Volume 3 – Alphabetical Index – External Causes of Injury:
 - ☐ Fall, falling (accidental):
 - ☐ Down:
 - ☐ Ramp (involving ice or snow)

- ☐ Stairs, steps (involving ice or snow)
- ☐ From, off:
- ☐ Incline (involving ice or snow)
- ☐ Ramp (involving ice or snow)
- ☐ Stairs, steps (involving ice or snow)
- ☐ In, on:
- ☐ Ramp (involving ice or snow)
- ☐ Staircase, stairs, steps (involving ice or snow)
- ☐ Same level NEC:
- ☐ Involving ice or snow
- ☐ Slipping (accidental) (on same level) (with fall):
- ☐ On ice
- ☒ Volume 1 – Tabular List:
- ☐ Chapter XX: External Causes of Morbidity and Mortality
- ☐ V01–X59: Accidents
- ☐ W00–X59: Other External Causes of Accidental Injury
- ☐ W00–W19: Falls
- ☐ W00: Fall on Same Level Involving Ice and Snow

- If ICD-10 is not used, then ICD-11 codes:
- ☒ ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics:
- ☐ PA60: Unintentional Fall on the Same Level or from Less Than 1 Metre
- ☐ XE3LV: Snow, Ice

- If neither ICD-10 nor ICD-11 codes are used:
- ☒ The number of incidents where slipping or falling on/off ice or snow was mentioned.

A1 For AE attendances we do not record how the injury occurred on our current clinical information system. This would require a manual review of the AE attendances to try and ascertain the cause of the injury.

The Trust's Clinical Coding Team have advised we use the following ICD10 coding to identify falls involving ice / snow – W00, with the 4th character showing where the incident happened, for inpatient stays. For the time period 01/01/21 – 31/10/24 there were 237 inpatient stays who had the above ICD10 clinical coding applied to their record.

Section 12 exemption applies as detailed below:

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally but may be recorded in health records (237 patient records). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Q2 For Each Relevant Incident, Where Possible, Please Include:

- A breakdown by year/month.
- A breakdown by age.
- A breakdown by gender.
- A brief description of the injuries sustained.

Format of Information:

I would prefer to receive the information in electronic format, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet or a CSV file.

A2 Some information within this request has not been given due to the low numbers. We have therefore provided age bands. This is because it is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOI Act: *personal information*. The information could be used to identify individual patients and therefore has not been released. *This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.*

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via
www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer