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20th April 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Use of
Non-Designated Areas for Patient Care

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details																														
<p>1. Use of non designated areas for patient care For 2025 please provide: The total number of days on which the trust provided patient care in non designated clinical areas, including but not limited to corridors, waiting rooms, alcoves, or other overspill spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (If recorded under alternative terminology such as “overspill areas”, “transit zones”, “enhanced waiting areas”, “temporary care spaces”, etc., please include these.) 	<p>Information not held - During times of pressure within our ED, unconventional bed spaces are used. We are able to provide details of the number of days in each quarter that our resuscitation and majors areas of our ED have been over-capacity at some point within the day (considering hourly snapshots of occupancy). Please see details the tables below:</p> <p>Resuscitation - number of days in the quarter that the area was, at some point, over-capacity</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="568 919 1182 1034"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>44</td> <td>47</td> <td>77</td> <td>66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td>48</td> <td>48</td> <td>77</td> <td>65</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Majors - number of days in the quarter that the area was, at some point, over-capacity</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="568 1145 1182 1260"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>94</td> <td>90</td> <td>92</td> <td>91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td>91</td> <td>92</td> <td>92</td> <td>90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2023/24	44	47	77	66	2024/25	48	48	77	65		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2023/24	94	90	92	91	2024/25	91	92	92	90			
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<p>2. Locations used Please list all specific areas within the trust's estate that have been used to deliver patient care outside designated clinical areas during the same period, with a brief description of each space (e.g., corridor outside ED majors, corridor outside AMU, reception area).</p>	<p>Corridors in ED Majors, and corridors on Wards</p>			
<p>3. Modifications or infrastructure added to these areas a) For each of the areas listed in Question 2, please confirm whether any of the following have been installed or implemented at any point since 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked bays or taped out treatment spaces • Bay numbers or identifiers • Call bells, oxygen points, suction, or other clinical infrastructure 	<p>a. Patient screens, portable oxygen and portable call bells, b. No</p>			

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Home, Community, Hospital.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hooks or rails for IV fluids • Additional monitoring equipment • Privacy screens or partitions • Any other physical or operational modifications to support patient care • If held, please provide the month/year of installation. <p>b) Does your trust have any formalised staffing for corridor care? (eg. a corridor rota allocation?) - YES or NO</p>				
<p>4. Capacity planning and the government's commitment to end corridor care by 2029</p> <p>a) Please confirm YES or NO whether the trust currently holds documented plans, modelling, or projections indicating that the trust will have sufficient bed capacity, clinical space, and staffing to meet projected demand by 2029 without the use of non designated clinical areas.</p>	<p>a. No</p> <p>b. Yes.</p> <p>c. Section 43</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Section 43</p>	<p>Section 43 - Commercial interests</p> <p>It is our opinion that the information sought in relation to documents is exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). S43(2) relates to information that is exempt from disclosure that could have a detrimental effect on the commercial interests of "...any person." The Trust considers that at this time the commercial interests of the Trust, third</p>

<p>b) Please confirm YES or NO whether the trust currently holds documented plans AND identified funding (capital and/or revenue) to ensure that patient care will no longer take place in non designated clinical areas by 2029.</p> <p>c) For each YES response, please provide copies of the relevant documents. For each NO response, please state whether the trust has undertaken any assessment of what capacity or funding would be required to meet the 2029 aim.</p>			<p>parties and overall the NHS could be detrimentally impacted upon. Please see the public interest test below.</p> <p>Public Interest Test We recognise that the disclosure of the information sought in relation to the costs involved would provide transparency in the use of public funds by the Trust and the NHS in general. It would also assist the general populous with transparency in decision making by the Trust and their transactions with third parties.</p> <p>Conversely to the factors demonstrated above in favour of disclosure, it is felt that the Trust, third party suppliers and overall the NHS could be disadvantaged should the information sought in relation to costs being made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and to provide the value of the costs involved may allow rival companies to undercut the Trust current suppliers,</p>
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			<p>lead to loss of confidence by suppliers and customers and could cause significant harm and disadvantage to the Trust and suppliers.</p> <p>The disclosure could also adversely impact on any on-going or future procurement processes for the reasons outlined above. Any disclosure by the Trust could also in future discourage the provision of commercially sensitive information necessary to respond properly to the Trusts Invitation To Tender, and would be likely to affect and undermine the Trusts bargaining position in any future procurement process or negotiations. Ultimately civil action could be taken against the Trust should information be disclosed that adversely affects the commercial interests of current and/or future suppliers.</p> <p>As a result, it is in the Trust's opinion that this sufficiently demonstrates the</p>
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			<p>prejudice which could be caused through disclosure.</p> <p>Balance Test It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. It is recognised that there is a general public interest in the Trust being open and transparent. However, it is not believed that this public interest is served in disclosure for damage that would be caused as outlined above.</p> <p>Therefore, – the Trust considers that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above. Further guidance can be accessed from the Information Commissioner’s Office https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-</p>
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			information-regulations/section-43-commercial-interests/
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I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.