

Email: foi.tsdfd@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10857

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

I am requesting the following information relating to recorded rectal foreign body admissions in your hospitals.

For the purpose of this request, 'rectal foreign body' refers to items stuck, inserted or lodged in a person's rectum (I am not seeking information on vaginas) which required hospital treatment to remove.

- 1. Please provide the total number of people who attended your hospital(s) in need of assistance for a rectal foreign body in the rectum.**
- 2. Please provide an itemised list of the foreign bodies.**

I only require information from A&E or Urgent Care departments; please list the information by calendar year, dating from January 1st 2022, to September 1st 2026.

Please provide the information in the following format, if you manage more than one hospital, please provide separate graphs for each applicable one (noting I only require information from hospitals with an A&E or Urgent Care department). If information is not held for a specific category, please leave the applicable box(s) blank.

Hospital Name					
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 up to 1 st September
Number of rectal foreign bodies.	16	6	8	10	<5

Itemised List	Withheld under section 40(2)	Withheld under section 40(2)	Withheld under section 40(2)	Withheld under section 40(2)	Withheld under section 40(2)
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If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please advise which section(s) could be refined in order to bring it within scope.

I am not requesting personal details. Where exemptions are considered to apply, I request that factual material be disclosed separately or with redactions to other material.

Please note that it is not possible to identify every relevant case with complete certainty. The Trust has therefore applied the most reasonable and consistent criteria available, using information recorded as the chief complaint or diagnosis, or where a rectal foreign body was mentioned in the presenting complaint, presenting problem or clinicians' notes.

The Trust is withholding the itemised list under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The precise figure for 2026 has also been withheld and is shown as fewer than five. Given the small cohorts, together with the sensitive nature of the information and the possibility that it could be combined with information already known to others, disclosure could enable individual patients to be identified. The information therefore constitutes third-party personal data and special-category health data. Disclosure to the public would be unfair and would contravene the data protection principles. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

Low Numbers:

Where there are less than 5, we are unable to provide the exact information you require as this may enable the identification of our employees, members of the public or patients. This would constitute personal information and would be considered exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 (FOI Act) provides an exemption to disclosure, where disclosure would contravene any of the Data Protection principles. This exemption is an absolute exemption that is not subject to the public interest test. Where the information relates to an individual who can be identified from that data, or from that data when added to other information, in the possession of, or likely to come into the possession of the data controller, this meets the definition of personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team