

**Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log
- Reply Extract**

File reference	W20FOI415
Key words	Covid-19 Testing and False Positives, Deaths With & Without Underlying Conditions
Date of release	15/01/2021
Attachments	No

You asked

1. How big is your catchment area now?

The Trust's catchment area is described here
<https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/about-us>

The Trust can send and receive patients from outside the defined area when there is a clinical need.

2. What proportion of the population comes with in that area?

This information is published via the link in Q1.

3. Are all patients tested for C-19?

Yes, on admission and then at nationally agreed intervals if they remain inpatients.

4. If so what proportion of those are false positives?

False positives are difficult to enumerate in a disease that has such a high proportion of asymptomatic disease. All weak positives are confirmed on a second test and where the results are discrepant the result is noted as indeterminate and a repeat sample is requested.

5. Precisely what number of people have died directly with no underlining health conditions in 2020 of Covid-19, (Sars-Cov2)?

The Trust considers five or fewer deaths were related to patients who died following a positive Covid-19 test result that did not have a pre-existing condition.

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust takes the view that the actual number requested is too low to be disclosed. The information is considered exempt from further supply in accordance with section 41(1)(a) and (b) of the 2000 Act. The Trust received the information in confidence and it cannot be shared.

- 6. Precisely what number of people have died of Covid-19, (Sars-Cov2) with underlying health conditions?**

The numbers of Covid-19 deaths are recorded on the NHS England website at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/> reference tab 4 and RK9 for University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust. The Trust cannot provide an exact number because when cross referenced with published data and this reply would reveal exempt information refused in Q5.

- 7. I also require you to break down these figures into, (a) how many underlying health conditions, (b) what types? i.e cancer, heart disease, etc?**

Please see above. The information requested would require clinical interpretation and this cannot be provided within the timeframe specified in section 12(1) of the Act. Please refer to the legal notes.

- 8. What is the current bed patient capacity of the hospital and how many are currently full including ICU and the High Dependency Units?**

There was 92% occupancy on 12/01/2021 at 10:25. The figures quoted are for general, acute and critical care and exclude paediatrics and maternity. This figure is calculated on an 860 beds base and includes ICU and HDU beds.

- 9. Will all the front line staff be vaccinated? Do that have a choice in this or not?**

All staff who wish to be vaccinated will receive a vaccine.

- 10. Will this also include the administrative staff as well?**

Yes

Legal notes:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it holds the information requested and is supplying it in accordance with section 1(b), unless otherwise specified because it constitutes personal information, information provided in confidence, the appropriate limit would be exceeded or the information is accessible by other means.

Q1 and 2: The Trust publishes population and catchment area information on its website and as such it is exempt from supply in accordance with section 21.-(1) - Information accessible by other means. A link to the published information is provided.

Q5 and 6: Please find the answers to your questions noting that we have redacted the data set where numbers are five or fewer and banded information that could reveal a number of five or fewer. Figures of five or fewer are considered personally identifiable information or information provided in confidence.

Our approach avoids a breach of the first two Data Protection Act principles and the general right to object to processing, whilst providing you with as much detail as possible. This is in accordance with section 40.-(2)(a) and (b) by virtue of the first and second condition and is applicable to living patients. Section 41(1)(a) and (b) has been applied to protect the rights of the deceased.

Providing banded information provides a balance between your rights and that of any data subject.

Q7:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust (UPHT) is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it does not hold the information requested in a structured manner. Individual records of how someone was treated and their conditions would be held in clinical records and require clinical interpretation. The Trust could not locate, extract and collate such information as requested within the limitations of the Act. Based on a rate of £25 per hour, in accordance with the Fees Regulations, we estimate that it will cost in excess of £450 to locate, retrieve and extract the information you have requested. This sum exceeds the appropriate limit of £450 as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

It is therefore considered exempt from supply in accordance with section 12(1) of the Act – Request exceeds the appropriate limit by virtue of section 13.-(1)(a) – The Cost of Compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Attachments included: No