

Title: **Nitrous Oxide Admissions to ED**

Reference Number: RDF1413-23

Date of Response: 19/04/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask that you please disclose details of the figures and details of cases of patients presenting at your A&E departments with symptoms of taking nitrous oxide gas year by year from 2018-2023.

Please state the year, the symptoms shown and the outcome of the A&E visit.

Answer: The Trust has considered your request, however to provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources. Symptoms of nitrous oxide gas specifically has not been recorded as a diagnosis, chief or presenting complaint in our current or legacy electronic health record systems, identifying any patients presenting with symptoms would involve manually searching patient records. To carry out this work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting that information.