

Hospital Acquired COVID Infections

Reference Number: F4573
Date of Response: 13th May 2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, in **blue bold text** below:

Request and Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust Response

For all the information below please could you provide data from between the dates 01/12/2021 to 25/03/2022, and could you please provide the figures for each individual month. An Excel form has been included for this information to be easily filed.

- 1) The monthly number of probable hospital-acquired Covid-19 infections (8-14 days after admission)
 - **December 2021: *<5**
 - **January 2022: *<5**
 - **February 2022: 25**
 - **1st – 25th March 2022: 38**

- 2) The monthly number of definite hospital-acquired Covid-19 infections (>14 days)
 - **December 2021: *<5**
 - **January 2022: 9**
 - **February 2022: 33**
 - **1st – 25th March 2022: 45**

***<5 We can confirm that this data is held by the Trust, however, In accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide these figures as the number of patients with probable hospital acquired COVID-19 in December and January 2021 is less than five. The number of patients with definite hospital-acquired COVID-19 in December 2021 is also less than 5. Releasing this data could risk the identification of these patients. This would breach Caldicott principles and all principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.**

Section 40(2) of the FOIA states that information is exempt from disclosure if it constitutes the personal data of a third party and its disclosure under the FOIA would breach any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998

This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards,

postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

- 3) The monthly number of patients who died in hospital after acquiring a 'probable' hospital-acquired Covid-19 infection

The Trust is unable to respond to this question. Deaths are reported within 28 days of a positive test. The Trust does not split these according to probable and definite hospital acquired infections.

- 4) The monthly number of patients who died in hospital after acquiring a 'definite' hospital-acquired Covid-19 infection.

The Trust is unable to respond to this question. Deaths are reported within 28 days of a positive test. The Trust does not split these according to probable and definite hospital acquired infections.