

Removal of Foreign Bodies

Reference Number: RDF1625-23

Date of Response: 13/07/23

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).

Dear Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,

I would like to request the following information:

- 1. The number of operations your trust has done to remove rectal foreign bodies from patients in the years 2022 - 2023 (to June 1)*

Answer: ≤ 5 . In accordance with Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles. In these cases ≤ 5 is used to indicate that a figure between 1 and 5 is being suppressed.

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authorities, wards, postcode districts, CCG's providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

- 1. A list of the foreign bodies you have removed in this time period.*

Answer: The information is not recorded as requested, all episodes are recorded as 'foreign bodies'.

- 2. Guidelines as to what happens to these foreign bodies once they have been removed, or any list of the ways in which this has been done - for instance they have been disposed of or returned to owner.*

Answer: Foreign body objects are disposed of appropriately and removed from the Trust premises to licensed/permitted waste disposal, recovery or treatment sites as required.