

Date: 13/03/2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/012135

With reference to your FOI request in connection with 'Critical care beds', please see response below.

Please provide me with the number of (a) available and (b) occupied Level 2 adult critical care beds at your trust in May and December of each year from 2011 to 2014. (For ease of answering, a table is provided further below.)

In answering, please describe the number of available and occupied Level 2 adult critical care beds as a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month – that is, using the same snapshot as you use for describing total critical care beds for your returns to NHS England's Critical Care Bed Capacity statistics.

For reference, the guidance that NHS England provides on counting beds is below (note that this methodology is expressed here in terms of both Level 2 and Level 3 beds, whereas the question asked in this Freedom-of-Information request applies just to Level 2 beds): "Count all adult critical care (ITU, HDU or other) beds that are funded and available for critical care patients (Levels 2 and 3) at midnight on the last Thursday of the reporting period. Note that this should be the actual number of beds at that time and not the planned number of beds. Beds funded but not available due to staff vacancies should not be counted unless the vacancies have been filled by bank or agency staff. Beds that are not funded, but are occupied should be counted."

For reference, the definition of 'Level 2' given by NHS England is below: "Patients requiring more detailed observation or intervention including support for a single failing organ system or post operative care and those "stepping down" from higher levels of care. Also known as High Dependency.

" Number of Level 2 adult critical care beds at your trust

Number of available beds

Number of occupied beds

May-11 Dec-11 May-12 Dec-12 May-13 Dec-13 May-14 Dec-14 May-11 Dec-11 May-12 Dec-12 May-13 Dec-13
May-14 Dec-14

The Trust is unable to provide the information requested.

For question a) throughout the requested period we have had 20 critical care beds available but these are not individually reserved for levels of care so we cannot state the number of level 2 beds.

For question b) we do record electronically a snapshot of total critical care bed occupancy for our nationally mandated SITREP submissions but the specific level of care which patients are receiving at that time is not recorded. We record total level of level 2 days only, again for our nationally mandated SUS submissions, but not when the periods of level 2 care start and stop.