

Date: 26/06/2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013486 – Critical care

I am collecting information on critical care beds capacity in the NHS. I am defining a critical care bed as: “A bed able to provide ongoing care to a Level 2 or Level 3 patient”.

Question 1: What is the total number of critical care beds (Level 2 and Level 3) per 100,000 of the population your trust serves?

If you cover both secondary and tertiary care, please provide your TOTAL bed:population ratio for the whole trust, AND a figure for both types of service

The standard bed plan is MHDU = 6 but can go up to 10 MHDU patients, SHDU = 8 and ITU is staffed to 6 beds but can open to 9 if required but only for level 3 patients. So operationally there are usually 20 Critical Care beds available at any one time, but where required can go up to 27 Critical Care beds. Then add in your last paragraph around the population.

The trust serves an approximate population of 450,000 people, therefore for our standard bed plan of 20 adult beds this would be 4.44 adult beds per 100,000 of the population the trust serves. For the potential maximum capacity of 27 adult beds that the trust can maintain in these three critical care areas this would be 6 adult beds per 100,000 of the population the trust serves.

Question 2: How many critically ill patients were transferred from your hospital to another hospital’s critical care unit for non-clinical reasons in 2016-17?

The Trust’s Patient Administration System does not specifically record whether a patient is transferred to another hospital’s critical care unit for non-clinical reasons. This level of information would be recorded in the patient’s documentation and patient notes are not accessible under the FOI Act.

Question 3: How many days in 2016-17 was the occupancy of your critical care beds over 85% at least one point during those 24 hours?

Therefore taking a potential maximum capacity of 27 beds, in that the highest figures each area can possibly accommodate is 10 for MHDU, 8 SHDU and 9 for ITU, the trust would have been at over 85% capacity for at least one point during 24 hours on 39 days out of the 365 days of 2016-17.

This may include patients who are not level 2 or 3 due to ability to flexibly use 4 of the 10 beds on MHDU for ward patients if they are not required for level 2 patients.

Question 4: How many patients had an elective operation cancelled due to lack of a critical care bed capacity in 2016-17?

Two patients had their elective operation cancelled due to a lack of critical care bed capacity during 2016/17.

Question 5: How many days in 2016-17 was at least one critical care bed closed due to lack of staff for at least part of the day?

No adult critical care beds of our standard bed plans were closed due to staffing for this period.

Name	Organisational Code	Q1: total bed numbers	Q1: total beds secondary	Q1: total beds tertiary	Q2: Total 2016-17
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust	RNA	4.44 (6)	4.44 (6)	0	N/A

Q3: Total 201-17	Q4: Total 2016-17	Q5: Total 2016-17	Additional Comments
302 (39)	2	0	Please see full comments in attached FOI response

