

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-092025-0001101

Date: 23.1.2025

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please answer all questions that are relevant to your Trust. If any of the requested data is already available publicly, please provide links to the relevant information. If some data is unavailable for the entire period (2019-2024), please provide the most recent data available.

QUESTIONS:

FOI Questions on NHS Infrastructure; Hospital Repairs, Backlog, and Investments (2019-2024)

1. Building Age and Infrastructure Risks

- 1.1 For each year from 2019 to 2024, how many hospital buildings under your Trust were identified as being in urgent need of repair due to their age? Please also include the age of each building.
- 1.2 For each hospital building under your Trust, what specific infrastructure risks were identified (e.g., structural deficiencies, malfunctioning equipment, fire safety hazards, etc.)?
- 1.3 How much funding has been allocated for the maintenance and repair of ageing hospital buildings under your Trust over the past five years?

2. Annual Backlog of Repairs in NHS Hospitals

- 2.1 Please provide the total cost of the backlog of repairs for hospitals buildings under your Trust, broken down by year for the period 2019 to 2024.
- 2.2 Could you also break down these costs into the following risk categories, for each year:
 - **High Risk and Critical Repairs:** What is the estimated cost to eradicate high-risk backlog maintenance in hospital buildings under your Trust from 2019 to 2024?
 - **Moderate and Low Risk Repairs:** What is the estimated cost to eradicate non-critical repairs in hospital buildings under your Trust for the same period?

3. Major Infrastructure Failures

- 3.1 From 2019 to 2024, have there been any significant failures in hospital infrastructure within your Trust, such as structural problems, mechanical breakdowns, fires, etc., related to repair backlogs? Please provide details for each occurrence, including:
 - The type of failure (e.g., structural issues, mechanical breakdowns, fires, etc.).
 - The date the failure occurred.

Information is publicly available on the Estates Reporting and Information Collection page. [Estates Returns Information Collection - NHS England Digital](#)

- Please note:- The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust operates a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract. The hospital buildings are not owned by the Trust but by Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd who the Trust has the PFI contract with. The contract allows the Trust to use the buildings to provide its clinical services. Summit Healthcare (Dudley) Ltd and the partner Mitie are responsible for providing all of the estates and facility management services to ensure the buildings are always available for use.

FOI Questions on Waiting Times, Bed/Admission Capacity, Maternity Units, and Mortuary Space (2019-2024)

2. Admission Capacity and Bed Availability

2.1 For each year from 2019 to 2024, what was the average bed occupancy rate across hospitals under your Trust? ****Data includes information for General and Acute Adult, General and Acute Paediatrics, Core and Escalation beds****

	Average Bed occupancy rate
2019	92%*
2020	81%*
2021	93%*
2022	94%*
2023	94%*
2024 (to 31/08/2024)	95%*

*based on available reporting days

- How many days, if any, did hospitals under your Trust reach full bed capacity (100% occupancy) each year? ****Data includes information for General and Acute Adult, General and Acute Paediatrics, Core and Escalation beds****

	Days at full bed occupancy
2019	0
2020	0
2021	7
2022	0
2023	0
2024 (to 31/08/2024)	0

- How many beds were available for admissions in hospitals under your Trust at the end of each year (2019-2024)? Where possible, please break this down by general beds, ICU beds, and A&E beds ****Data includes information for General and Acute Adult, General and Acute Paediatrics, Core beds****

	General Beds	ICU Beds	A&E Beds
2019	607	22	*
2020	612	30	*
2021	627	30	*
2022	617	47	*
2023	618	47	*
2024 (to 31/08/2024)	629	39	51 (no beds, figure includes trolleys and chairs)

*Unable to provide data as department has been through many configurations

- How many beds were added or removed from hospitals under your Trust during this period? ****Data includes General and Acute Adult, General and Acute Paediatric Core beds****

	Beds Added	Beds Removed
2019	0	0
2020	0	43

2021	28	0
2022	2	0
2023	18	0
2024 (to 31/08/2024)	0	7

Mortuary Space and Storage Challenges –

6.1 For each year from 2019 to 2024, could you provide the number of instances where mortuary storage capacity in hospitals under your Trust was exceeded

- The total for the years requested is less than 5 and as per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the persons involved and cause distress to Families or Friends. Exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is applied.

6.2 For each year from 2019 to 2024, how many bodies were reported to have been left in inadequate storage conditions due to insufficient freezer space or other mortuary capacity issues in hospitals under your Trust

- **No instances within this time period- The Trust has adequate freezer space and there are no other capacity issues currently.**

6.3 What is the current storage capacity for bodies in the mortuaries of hospitals under your Trust? (number of spaces available for body storage)

- **Total of 174 Spaces, 115 Internal, 51 external and 8 freezer/fridge.**

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust