

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

**Ref:** FOI-032026-0002303

**Date:** 15.5.26

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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

Request

Use of Non-Designated Areas for Patient Care

1. Use of non-designated areas for patient care

For each of the last three full calendar years (2023, 2024, 2025), please provide:

The total number of days on which the trust provided patient care in non-designated clinical areas, including but not limited to corridors, waiting rooms, alcoves, or other overspill spaces.

(If recorded under alternative terminology such as "overspill areas", "transit zones", "enhanced waiting areas", "temporary care spaces", etc., please include these.)

<NHS England has published an official definition of corridor care, to enable accurate and consistent reporting. The definition states that a patient has experienced corridor care if they've spent at least 45 minutes in a clinically inappropriate area of an emergency department or general and acute ward>

**2023 – No data held**

**2024 – No data held**

**2025 – 58 days**

2. Locations used

Please list all specific areas within the trust's estate that have been used to deliver patient care outside designated clinical areas during the same period, with a brief description of each space (e.g., corridor outside ED majors, corridor outside AMU, reception area).

**- The corridor adjacent to the Ambulance Offload area is utilised for Ambulance offload. Additional patients are also held but these are within the clinical areas.**

3a) Modifications or infrastructure added to these areas

For each of the areas listed in Question 2, please confirm whether any of the following have been installed or implemented at any point since 2023:

- Marked bays or taped-out treatment spaces
- Bay numbers or identifiers
- Call bells, oxygen points, suction, or other clinical infrastructure
- Hooks or rails for IV fluids
- Additional monitoring equipment
- Privacy screens or partitions

- Any other physical or operational modifications to support patient care

If held, please provide the month/year of installation.

**There are privacy screens in place for these areas, Oxygen and Suction are provided through co-located portable units. IV fluids are not given in this area and is part of the exclusion criteria for patient suitability.**

3b) - Does your trust have any formalised staffing for corridor care? (eg. a corridor rota allocation?)

→~~YES~~ or **NO**

#### 4. Policies or internal guidance

Please provide copies of any current internal policies, SOPs, risk assessments, or guidance documents that relate to:

- The use of non-designated areas for patient care
- Management of “corridor care”, “overspill areas”, “transit zones”, or equivalent terminology
- Staffing, monitoring, or escalation procedures for patients placed in such areas

**Please see attached.**

**Please note names have been redacted and some of the links on the document can only be accessed from Trust devices.**

#### 5. Capacity planning and the government’s commitment to end corridor care by 2029

a) Please confirm YES or NO whether the trust currently holds documented plans, modelling, or projections indicating that the trust will have sufficient bed capacity, clinical space, and staffing to meet projected demand by 2029 without the use of non-designated clinical areas.

**No – this is in progress through an external delivery partner.**

b) Please confirm YES or NO whether the trust currently holds documented plans AND identified funding (capital and/or revenue) to ensure that patient care will no longer take place in non-designated clinical areas by 2029.

**No – this is in progress through an external delivery partner.**

c) For each YES response, please provide copies of the relevant documents. – **N/A**

For each NO response, please state whether the trust has undertaken any assessment of what capacity or funding would be required to meet the 2029 aim.

- **Yes – This is the work alongside the delivery partner.**

#### 6. Optional comment

If the trust wishes to provide any contextual information about the use of non-designated areas, the move to making non designated clinical areas into functional quasi spaces or your plans to reduce reliance on them, please include it here.

If you medical director would like to share a comment here on the answers provided, I would happily receive it and note it.

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: [dqft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dqft.dpo@nhs.net)

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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](http://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**