

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

Ref: FOI-042026-0002403

Date: 15.05.2026

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

Freedom of Information Act Request: Determination of ceilings of care and escalation of respiratory support as at May 2020

I write to request the following information. This request is made pursuant to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. Please provide me with copies of any clinical pathways, decision-making tools and policy guidance which were in place at your Trust in May 2020 regarding:

- a) Determining ceilings of care for hospital inpatients (including patients suffering from COVID-19); and
- b) Escalation of respiratory support for hospital inpatients, including determining whether non-invasive or invasive respiratory support would be provided. (For example, this may include clinical pathways for management of acute respiratory failure).

- The Trust did not have a specific policy/guideline but followed the national guidance issued by NICE where we considered the benefits and risks of all admissions & treatments on an individualised patient basis, as we do in normal practice. Please see attached document.

For a copy of the document please contact dqft.foi@nhs.net

2. I understand that CRITCON levels 0 – 4 were applied during the COVID-19 pandemic to determine the level of capacity in intensive care units and measures to be taken in response. In connection with this, please confirm the CRITCON level(s) declared by your organisation during May 2020.

The Trust does not have a copy of the CRITCON levels.

CRITCON levels were utilised nationally, the Trust's CRITCON levels in May 2020 would have been reported to the West Midlands Operational Delivery Network as part of our Directory of Services returns, please contact West Midlands ODN for details.

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.

FOI/REF FOI-

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