

Date: 24 September 2021
Our reference: N/21/3359

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

In the request you asked:

I write concerning the regular COVID-19 updates for our region and wondered if you could further clarify the figures set out below:

Hospitals

- We have seen 98 admissions relating to Covid-19 in the seven days to 5 September, which compares to 125 in the previous 7 day period
 - We had 190 beds occupied by Covid+ patients on 7 September, this compares to 200 on 31 August
 - Of those 190 beds, 13% (25 beds) were mechanically ventilated
 - In the week from 3 September – 9 September there were 18 deaths, which compares to 24 the previous week
1. Could you please provide an explanation of 'relating to Covid-19' for the 98 admissions. Are these all patients who both have a diagnosis and are symptomatic for Covid-19? The use of 'relating to' infers this isn't the case. What are the other scenarios that 'relating to' may refer to?
 2. With reference to the 190 beds occupied by Covid +ve patients as at 7 Sept, could you please advise the number of patients in this group who are symptomatic for Covid as many people test +ve whilst in hospital for something else entirely and are never symptomatic. Given the dire lack of robust evidence for asymptomatic spread, this is important information that may help to quell anxiety about the virus for some.
 3. Of the 25 ventilated patients, how many are ventilated directly because of their Covid-19 symptomatic infection?
And how many of these symptomatic patients have zero underlying conditions?
 4. How many of the 18 deaths are directly attributable to symptomatic Covid-19 infection? And how many of those who died from the directly from Covid-19 had zero underlying conditions?

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG extract the data for our local COVID-19 updates from publically available information published by NHS England via the following page - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/>. (i.e. this is not the CCG's own data).

The CCG specifically uses the section called 'Weekly Publication of COVID-19 admissions and bed occupancy data' which is located approximately halfway down the webpage.

Please see the PDF document at the top of the page linked above called "Publication Definitions (PDF, 504KB) for detailed explanations about data classifications and methodologies. [Microsoft Word - Publication definitions doc.docx \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)
For ease, please see below for the definition of confirmed COVID-19 patients as per the aforementioned PDF document.

Definition of confirmed COVID-19 patients:

- *For all relevant data items: a confirmed COVID-19 patient is any patient admitted to the trust who has recently (i.e. in the last 14 days) tested positive for COVID-19 following a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.*
- *Patients who have been diagnosed via X-ray and assessment rather than a positive test should be counted as suspected (and not confirmed) COVID-19 patients.*
- *Report a patient as a confirmed COVID-19 patient in the sitrep for as long as they are being treated as a COVID-19 patient – so either they are being treated for COVID-19 caused symptoms or the trust is still taking the precautions they would take with a COVID-19 positive patient.*
- *A patient who has previously but not recently – (i.e. not in the last 14 days) had a positive COVID-19 test and is admitted for non-COVID-19 related treatment should not be counted as a confirmed COVID-19 patient.*

As this is not the CCG's own data, you may wish to make an FOI request directly to NHS England. [NHS England » How to make a Freedom of Information request to NHS England](#)

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group*.

notts.foi@nhs.net

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