

FOI 2973

7th April 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. What is the current policy for mechanical ventilation of patients undergoing an MRI scan within your NHS trust?

Response:

As per GA for MRI guidelines. Patients are anaesthetised (or transferred from ICU sedated) and mechanically ventilated on the MR conditional ventilator- initially on ventilator that resides outside the scanner in induction bay, and then on a second ventilator in MRI scanner after transfer across.

2. Which department has the primary responsibility for overseeing the mechanical ventilation of patients in the MRI suite? Is it the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or the MRI department?

Response:

Mechanical ventilation is the responsibility of the consultant anaesthetist (MR trained) who will ensure the patient is appropriately ventilated and sedated throughout the scan.

3. Which mechanical ventilators are currently used when conducting MRI scans on patients within your MRI department?

Response:

Heinen and Lowenstein Leon (MR conditional) ventilator. There are 2 identical machines in the MR department.

4. Please provide the make, model, and age of the current mechanical transport ventilators used within your trust.

Response:

Oxylog 3000plus transport ventilator. This is not MR conditional. Age: August 2020

Could you list the specific MRI-compatible ventilators currently in use within your trust?

Heinen and Lowenstein Leon (MR conditional) ventilator

5. Please provide the contact details (name, job title, and email/telephone) of the lead clinical person overseeing the use of mechanical transport ventilation within your trust.

Response:

Name - Section 36 (2) (c) applies*

Email Address - Section 36 (2) (c) applies*

6. Please provide the name and contact details of the technician responsible for over seeing the usage and maintenance of these ventilators within your trust.

Response:

Name - Section 36 (2) (c) applies*

Email Address - Section 36 (2) (c) applies*

* The Trust has considered this request carefully and is withholding the name and direct contact details for the requested positions. This is because we consider this information exempt under section 36(2) (c) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Refusal notice: Section 36(2) - information prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.

36.— (1) This section applies to—

(a) information which is held by a government department or by the Welsh Government and is not exempt information by virtue of section 35, and

(b) information which is held by any other public authority.

(2) Information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act

(c) would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.

The Trust considers that section 36 (2) (c) applies in this case, as disclosure of the names and direct contact details for staff members would prejudice the efficient and effective management of public contact. This is because staff members would be likely to find themselves dealing with emails and contact that may have been more appropriately dealt with elsewhere, which would in turn distract and impact on staff members ability and capacity to do their day-to-day work.

On its website, the Trust publishes details of the main contacts for its services [Our Hospitals | Southern Health & Social Care Trust](#). In addition, further contact details can be found under specific services on the Trust website.

Section 36 requires that the qualified person, the Chief Executive of the Trust, must give their reasonable opinion that the exemption is engaged. The Chief Executive considers section 36 is engaged.

As Section 36 is a qualified exemption, we are also required to decide on a case-by-case basis, whether the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure. The Trust has considered this below:



Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption:

- Ensuring that public contact is managed effectively and efficiently is key to providing good public services. Routing calls from the public through carefully managed publicly available numbers ensures that calls are passed on to the correct services.
- Publication of key numbers helps ensure that members of the public can easily select the correct numbers for contacting services. These numbers are carefully managed, with the aim of ensuring that there is continuity of service regardless of any internal changes to services.

Factors against maintaining the exemption:

- We do not believe that there is any public interest in disclosing direct contact details as the Trust maintains details of central points of contact page on its website.

On balance of the public interest test, we believe that public interest lies in withholding the requested information.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net