

FOI 3083

29th May 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

2a: Are other types of plastic bags (i.e. not bin liners) allowed into psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?**Response:**

Plastic bags are a restricted item within all wards within Bluestone Mental Health and Learning Disability Hospital. As such they are **prohibited** within patient accessible areas, e.g. within patient rooms, and in areas where (yellow) clinical waste and (black) bags are utilised they are maintained within **restricted** areas, behind locked and access-controlled doors

b: If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited?**Response:**

Plastic bags moved status from restricted amber status (an item subject to a degree of control) to a red status prohibited item within Bluestone in December 2021

c: How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?**Response:**

	Total
2020	<5
2021	<5
2022	<5
2023	<5
2024	0

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the exact figures from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the

disclosure of the information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

d: How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Response:

Nil

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