

Ref. No: 1447  
Date: 08/01/25  
Subject: Vaping Incidents

## REQUEST

- 1) How many secondary school aged pupils have arrived at A&E by ambulance as a result of vaping recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?
- 2) How many secondary school aged pupils have needed to be admitted to hospital as a result of vaping recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?
- 3) Of those admitted to hospital, please list the number of admissions according to age during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?:
  - \*11 to 12 years old
  - \*13 to 15 years old
  - \*16 years old
  - \* 17 to 18 years old
- 4) How many of those vaping incidents with secondary school pupils recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, contained the following substances:
  - THC;
  - Spice;
  - THC & Spice

## RESPONSE

The trust is exempting the release of this information under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

**Section 12** of the FOIA allows a public authority to refuse a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to comply with the request. The relevant section states:

*12. (1) - Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.*

where the appropriate limit is equal to 18 hours of staff time as set by the *Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004*

In determining the time limit, the Trust can only take into account

- determining whether the information is held;
- locating the information, or a document containing it;
- retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- extracting the information from a document containing it.

In order to determine whether the information is held in respect of your request, the Trust would need to review digital records, A&E cards and walk-in centre records for the financial year. A simple report can not be produced as there is not a specific code for vaping and it could also be classed under other identifiers.

**Calculation** - Across the Trust there are approximately 98,000 presentations to A&E or walk-in centres per year. If it took one minute to review each event, the total time for determining whether the information is held and retrieving this information would equal 1633 hours<sup>1</sup>

### **Advice and Assistance**

Under section 16 of the FOIA, advice and assistance should be provided to allow the request to come under the appropriate limit by scaling or modifying the request.

### **Unable to narrow**

However, as the information is not readily available and the number of attendances so large, it would not be easy to scale down the request in this instance, for example, to one site. It would also not be possible to scale the request to one month as this would still exceed the time limit.

Unfortunately, the Trust is unable to provide further assistance in this instance.

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<sup>1</sup> 98000 attendances \* 1 minute to review each event = 98000 minutes  
98000 minutes = 1633 hours, 20 minutes

