

Ref. No: 1773
Date: 22/05/25
Subject: BBQ-related Injuries and Admissions

REQUEST

I am seeking details on hospital attendances or admissions related to BBQs between January 2022 and the most recent available data, ideally broken down by month and by hospital.

Specifically:

1. The number of patients treated for:
 - Burns or injuries caused by BBQs
 - Cuts, wounds or other trauma sustained during BBQs
 - Suspected food poisoning related to BBQs
 - Carbon monoxide poisoning linked to BBQ usage

If possible, please differentiate between Emergency Department attendances and inpatient admissions.

If possible, please provide the information in an Excel (.xls or .xlsx) or CSV format.

RESPONSE

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 approximately 397.000 A&E records for each of the financial years. A simple report cannot be produced as there is not a specific code relating to BBQ accidents.

Calculation - Across the Trust there are approximately 397.000 presentations to A&E 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 6613 hours and 40 minutes¹

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.

¹ 397000 attendances * 1 minute to review each event = 397000 minutes
397000 minutes = 6613 hours, 40 minutes