

# Request title: ED Admissions relating to sun burn

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Date of Response: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

## Request

Could you please supply me with annual statistics for the past five years on the number of people presenting with sun burn at the Emergency Department at Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

If possible please provide monthly break-downs.

## Reply:

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request in the table below. However, please note the following:

### **The ED unplanned attendance data:**

On attendance to the ED, patients won't always admit to 'sunburn' but will say that they have 'burnt' and therefore this information would be very difficult to obtain accurately.

The majority of patients attending with 'sunburn' would be triaged and then they would be seen in the Walk-In Centre and not receive treatment in the ED and therefore this information wouldn't be recorded or coded on the ED computer system to enable the extraction.

The information that the Trust has been able to provide below has been extracted by searching the ED computer system for the presenting complaint that contains either the text "sun burn" or "sunburn". Where the number of patients seen is less than 5, the Trust is not willing to give the exact figure. Please see the Trusts full refusal notice at the bottom of this response.

Calendar Year	Arrival Date	Total
2010	Feb 10	Less than 5
	May 10	8
	June 10	8
	Jul 10	Less than 5
2011	Jun 11	9
	Jul 11	9
	Aug 11	Less than 5
	Sep 11	Less than 5
	Dec 11	Less than 5
2012	May 12	8
	Jun 12	Less than 5
	Jul 12	12

	Aug 12 Nov 12	Less than 5 Less than 5
2013	Mar 13 Apr 13 May 13 Jun 13 Jul 13	Less than 5 Less than 5 5 Less than 5 26
2014	Apr 14 May 14 Jun 14 Jul 14 Aug 14	Less than 5 Less than 5 6 5 Less than 5
Grand Total		127

### **Section 41 refusal notice**

*41: Information is exempt information if –*

*(a) It was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and*

*(b) The disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.*

Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act sets out an exemption from the right to know information, where the information requested was provided to the public authority in confidence with the expectation that the information would only be used/disclosed in accordance with the wishes of the confider. The information has been collected by the Trust in the course of the patients treatment and would form part of their health record, and the information contained within the health record would have been created as a result of information gathered with an expectation by the patient that it would be held in confidence.

On considering this, the Trust believes that in the context of health records, the responsibility of confidentiality is vital, as it reinforces and underpins the commitment of trust between patients and doctors, without which public confidence in the Trust may be damaged. Patients have a reasonable expectation that any information they provide will only be used to enable effective delivery of care and will be held under a duty of confidence. The ICO recognises in its guidance that section 41 will be particularly relevant to authorities holding information such as health records.

If there is a breach of confidence the confider or any other party affected may have the right to take action through the courts.

On considering the above points, the Trust has reached the conclusion that it will not divulge such information when there is no legal obligation to do so.