

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: UHB 17-304**

Date 30 May 2017

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

- 1. Who is the policy or clinical lead for blood culture best practice at your trust? Please provide a name, job title, postal address, email address and phone number.**

Job Title – Consultant Microbiologist

Contact details for the Trusts senior staff are available from our website:

<http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/for-clinicians/gp-handbook/quick-reference-telephone-directory/>

Under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, relating to a breach of Principle 1 of the Data Protection Act we are required to judge as to whether the disclosure of the information of less senior staff would be fair and reasonable to our employees.

Guidance issued by the Information Commissioner states that this exemption will commonly apply to "lists and directories of staff" and we do not believe that disclosing names and contact details to a third party would be fair or reasonable; therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

- 2. Does your Trust follow the Public Health England SMI guidelines for blood cultures?**

Yes

- 3. How many blood culture sets are taken for each suspected case of (a) sepsis and (b) other bacterial infection, and where there is more than one blood culture set taken are these taken from different sites - please provide an answer for both (a) and (b).**

We do not hold this information as we are unable to provide specifics on the request, or the site from where the blood culture was taken

- 4. How many individual blood cultures were taken at your trust in the following years: (a) 2012/13 (b) 2013/14 (c) 2014/15 (d) 2015/16 (e) 2016/17?**

Please note the figures in the table below reflects a total of aerobic and anaerobic bottles (a pair is standard for adult patients) and paediatric bottles (a single bottle for

smaller volume from children). Children with central lines will often have an adult set taken.

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
34379	33961	37664	40953	44131

**5. How many individual blood cultures were identified as being contaminated in the following years: (a) 2012/13 (b) 2013/14 (c) 2014/15 (d) 2015/16 (e) 2016/17?**

The figures noted in the table below may an under-representation of the true numbers as the figures relate to whether a specific code has been added to the report.

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
428	402	506	491	340

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary  
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

██████████  
██