

Ref. No: 458  
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Date: 13/05/23  
Subject: Emergency Department Floor Plans

## REQUEST

My thesis is to generate hospital architectural floor planning with artificial intelligence, especially for emergency areas. In this context, I need the floor plans of the hospital emergency departments as data. The hospital floor plans that I want to collect as data are floor plans of emergency departments of NHS hospitals in the UK. That's why I'm writing to you.

Could you please share with me the floor plans of the emergency area of your hospitals? I would be pleased if you could share it.

## RESPONSE

The Trust does hold the information being requested but considers that it should not be disclosed for the following reasons:

**Section 31 (1) (a) Law enforcement - the prevention or detection of crime:**

*Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.*

It is in our view that to provide detailed information about the layout of our hospitals would be contrary to taking appropriate measures to manage such risks as crime and terrorism. The release of such information into the public domain would increase the likelihood that they would be the target of such activity.

Therefore S31(1)(a) of the FOIA is engaged as disclosure of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

**The public interest test:**

Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption.

There is a strong general public interest in supporting public bodies to effectively protect the public health provisions they hold and to make efficient use of public funds to monitor security.

It is the Trust's responsibility to ensure the safety of those present on its sites; we serve a community of over 360,000 people and employ approximately 5000 staff.

The Trust holds a significant amount of sensitive health information and specialised equipment. Protecting any information which, by itself or in combination with other information, could increase the likelihood of any form of attack would be very much in the public interest.

Factors in favour of disclosure

The public would appreciate assurances that vital public services such as hospitals are able to meet the demands placed upon them.

There is also always a favourable public interest in disclosure arising from requests made under the Freedom of Information Act; in the spirit of transparency and openness.

Conclusion

In this instance the Trust considers that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption in the effectiveness of law enforcement and the prevention of crime.