

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 07 October 2025

FOI Ref 30586

Requested Information:

Request for Information on the increase in the number of people having their gallbladders removed.

The national NHS figures show quite a significant increase in the last 5 years – and I initially heard anecdotally through a contact that lots of people on weight loss jabs are getting gallstones / sometimes needing to have gallbladder removal.

I've since spoken to the British Obesity and Metabolic Specialist Society, who say they've definitely seen an increase and can't see any other reasons aside from the jabs and are concerned about it.

1. Would you be able to provide me with a breakdown for the number of surgeries carried out at the Trust for the last 5 years – broken down year by year.
2. I'd also be interested in hearing from any clinical staff in the trust if this is something they've noticed / are concerned about if possible.

Response:

1. Would you be able to provide me with a breakdown for the number of surgeries carried out at the Trust for the last 5 years – broken down year by year.

FOI 30586 - Gallbladder Removals

RCHT Inpatient Spells

Where patients had a spell end date between 01/01/2020 and 30/09/2025 (inclusive)

Where patients had one of the following OPCS 4.10 coded procedures (in any position) during their inpatient spell

OPCS 4.10 Codes used in this request:

Code	Definition
J18.1	Total cholecystectomy and excision of surrounding tissue
J18.2	Total cholecystectomy and exploration of common bile duct
J18.3	Total cholecystectomy NEC
J18.4	Partial cholecystectomy and exploration of common bile duct
J18.5	Partial cholecystectomy NEC
J18.8	Other specified excision of gall bladder
J18.9	Unspecified excision of gall bladder

Response:

Year	Total Spells
2020	634
2021	528
2022	530
2023	590
2024	631
2025*	436
Grand Total	3349

*not full year

2. I'd also be interested in hearing from any clinical staff in the trust if this is something they've noticed / are concerned about if possible. **The Freedom of Information request covers recorded information only, therefore opinions would not be within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.**

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 15 October 2025