

FOI 0555_2025 Response

1a: Are plastic bin liners used on psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?

The Trust's position as per our Ligature Risk Reduction Policy, is that bin liners are not permitted within in en-suites, bedrooms and toilets or where patients have unsupervised access.

No other types of plastic bags are permitted.

Should any patient areas have a different approach for these rooms then they would need to consider local risk assessment with amended environmental and ligature risk assessments (ERA/LRA) supported by the health and safety team.

It should be noted that bin liners and other types of bags will only be used in controlled rooms on in-patient areas. Controlled rooms are those that are usually locked or only allow supervised access. Examples of these include - treatment rooms, examination rooms, domestic wet and dry rooms, consultation rooms, kitchens, ward offices and laundries.

b: If they are not allowed when were they prohibited?

Circa 2014.

c: How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Incidents	2	1	0	4	1

Note: The table above lists the number of self-harm incidents recorded on the Trust's Incident Reporting System involving bin liners between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024.

d: How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Incidents	0	0	0	0	0

Note: There were no death related incidents recorded on the Trust's Incident Reporting System involving bin liners between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024.

2a: Are other types of plastic bags (i.e. not bin liners) allowed into psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?

Please refer to the response provided for Q1a.

b: If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited?

Please refer to the response provided for Q1a.

c: How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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Incidents	3	3	1	0	0
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Note: The table above lists the number of self-harm incidents recorded on the Trust's Incident Reporting System involving plastic bags between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024.

d: How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Incidents	0	1	0	0	1

Note: The table above lists the number of death related incidents recorded on the Trust's Incident Reporting System involving plastic bags between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024.