

12 June 2025

Plastic Bags / Bin Liners use on Psychiatric Inpatient Wards

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

Paper bin liners/ bins without liners are used in all the psychiatric inpatient areas, unless the bin has a mechanism that securely prevents the plastic liner from being accessed.

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

Plastic bags have been prohibited in psychiatric wards since October 2018. All Health Trusts had been issued with safety letter **LL-SAI-2018-033 (MH)**.

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)?

See table below

Year	No. of incidents involving plastic bin liners	
2020	<5	Where numbers are low we have used <5 rather than state the exact figure. To release has the potential to make these patients identifiable. The information is therefore exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act which relates to Personal information relating to a third party.
2021	<5	
2022	0	
2023	0	
2024	0	

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

There have been no inpatient deaths involving plastic bin liners in the last five years.

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

Standard pharmacy plastic bags are used for medications for patients on discharge. Patient property bags are used for packing Patient's property on discharge.

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

Plastic bags have been prohibited in psychiatric inpatient wards since October 2018. All Health Trusts had been issued with safety letter **LL-SAI-2018-033 (MH)**.

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)?

See table below

Year	No. of incidents involving plastic bags
2020	14
2021	11
2022	10
2023	6
2024	5

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)?

There have been no inpatient deaths involving plastic bags in the last five years.