

**Information Governance**

The Green  
1 Roger Dowley Court  
Russia Lane  
London  
E2 9NJ

**Telephone: 020 7655 4131**

**Email** [elft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:elft.foi@nhs.net)

**Website:** <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

10 July 2020

**Our reference: FOI DA3445**

I am responding to your request for information received 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Keshia Harvey  
Information Governance Manager

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision. If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Web: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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**Request:**

**I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information about in-patient mental health care during coronavirus.**

**If answering all of these questions would engage the cost limit, please prioritise the questions in sequential order (first most important, third least) and stop once the limit is engaged.**

**Please also be advised that I have asked NHS England for the total number of deaths of mental health in-patients from coronavirus in England. Please note, I still expect an answer from yourselves on this.**

**Question 1a. Within the in-patient facilities that fall under your remit, how many patients have contracted coronavirus and/or are suspected to have contracted coronavirus?**

Answer: 173 patients have been recorded as COVID positive.  
There are currently 71 patients with suspected COVID-19

**Question 1b. Of that number, how many have died? Please provide data over the broadest timeframe you can, within the cost limits of the Freedom of Information Act. Please also provide dates of patients' deaths. If that would identify them, please provide the week they died or, if that would still identify them, the month. I understand that most patients with severe coronavirus will have been transferred to acute units, if that helps with your search.**

Answer: Of the 173 cases, 18 patients have died.

March 2020 – 2 deaths  
April 2020 – 11 deaths  
May 2020 – 5 deaths

**Question 1c. Please also provide me with a rough figure of the total number of in-patients your facilities support.**

Answer: The total bed capacity of the Trust is 857 beds.

**Question 2a. Since 1 March, what policies/procedures have your in-patient facilities put in place to deal with coronavirus? Please provide dates of enactment. Such policies/procedures might include (but are not limited to): asking providers to release patients early where possible; cancelling leave for in-patients; suspending advocacy services; stopping legal hearings; preventing patient readmissions; separating patients (whether through segregation or other forms).**

Answer: Guidance is available for staff here:  
<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/Professionals/Information-for-ELFT-Staff/Clinical-Guidance/ELFT-Guidance> and is updated as required.

**Question 2b. In situations where patients were released early, please, if possible, provide a total number. I understand that some policies may have been enacted and then retracted, therefore please provide dates for when they came into effect and were undone. Please also provide documentation, where possible, for the relevant policies/procedures.**

Answer: In order to ascertain the number of patients that were released early, each clinical record would need to be reviewed. The Trust is unable to comply with your request as the cost of compliance and extracting your exact requirements would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 which is specified in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is based on a rate of £25 per hour, regardless of the rate of pay of any individual involved in the retrieval of requested information, and equates to 18 hours work

**Question 3. Since 1 March, what guidance have you received from NHS England or the Department of Health and Social Care around how to manage coronavirus within in-patient mental health settings? Please provide the documentation you received, be it emails or formal documents, and the dates when you received it.**

Answer: A majority of guidance documents produced by NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care are not sent directly from them but are forwarded from various CCGs and other NHS bodies. Guidance documents have also been forwarded to a number of relevant staff/executive directors across the Trust and so there are several ways the Trust receives guidance documents. To provide an answer this question, we would need to search each inbox and the each email to identify those received since 1st March with attached guidance documents and then identify whether the guidance is relevant. Therefore, the Trust is unable to comply with your request as the cost of compliance and extracting your exact requirements would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450 which is specified in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is based on a rate of £25 per hour, regardless of the rate of pay of any individual involved in the retrieval of requested information, and equates to 18 hours work.