

Information Governance

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28 October 2021

Our reference: FOI DA3948

I am responding to your request for information received 18 September 2021. 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

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention

Chair: Mark Lam

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus

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Request:

To: FOI officer/NHS Mental Health Trust

Dear FOI team,

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), to ask for the following information:

Question 1. What was the total number of patient deaths, by financial year, from 2015/16 to 2020/21 inclusive?

Answer: Please see table below. These relate to deaths reported as an incident to the Trust.

	No. of reported death incidents
2015/2016	377
2016/2017	626
2017/2018	1384
2018/2019	1665
2019/2020	2007
2020/2021	2887

Question 2. For patient deaths in 2019/20 and 2020/21, what was the total number

- (i) Where a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) report only was written,
- (ii) Where a Serious Incident Report (SIR) report only was written,
- (iii) Where both an RCA and an SIR report were written and
- (iv) Where neither an RCA or an SIR were written?

Answer: The Trust conducts 48 hour reports, concise reports and Serious Incident Reports (SIRs). These are reviewed by a RCA.

	No. of SIRs re deaths
2019/2020	69
2020/2021	69

Question 3. For patient deaths in 2019/20 and 2020/21 how many in total were, at the time of death:

- (i) involuntary inpatients sectioned under Mental Health Act,
- (ii) voluntary inpatients
- (iii) patients within the community/outpatients.

Answer: Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit

The Trust has reviewed your request for information and in order to collate this information, staff would have to review each reported death and cross reference with the patient's mental health act status

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at the time of their death as this is not documented on a searchable field on the clinical or risk reporting system.

Therefore, the Trust is unable to comply with this particular part of 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 4. Please provide patient deaths by financial year from 2015/16 to 2020/21 broken down by mortality scoring index category or other equivalent measure.

[NOTE: For example, many trusts use the scoring system of:

- (i) definitely avoidable,**
- (ii) strong evidence of avoidability,**
- (iii) possibly avoidable**
- (iv) slight evidence of avoidability,**
- (v) definitely not avoidable,**

or use an equivalent methodology designed locally by the Trust, or one based on the Royal College of Physicians Structured Judgement Review tool or methods provided by the Royal College of Psychiatrists]

Answer: Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—

- (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and*
- (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.*

There is no data between 2015 and 2017 for expected deaths as the Trust did not start reviewing as SJR's until 2018. The total SJRs completed:

2018/2019	1217
2019/2020	814
2020/2021	1403

All deaths reviewed as an SJR were from community health services, patients were receiving end of life or palliative care and none were avoidable.

Question 5. How many patient suicides (confirmed and suspected) were there, by year of death, from 2015/16 to 2020/21?

Answer: Please see table below. These relate to deaths ruled as a confirmed suicide by a Coroner following an inquest.

2015/2016	51 Suicides
2016/2017	48 Suicides
2017/2018	46 Suicides
2018/2019	34 Suicides
2019/2020	29 Suicides
2020/2021	42 Suicides

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