

Information Governance

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28 January 2020

Our reference: FOI DA3352a

I am responding to your request for information received on 24 January 2020. 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

Request:

How many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave for each separate calendar year since 2010 (or for each year you have information)?

Answer:

The information requested is not held centrally on our incident reporting system. AWOLs are counted by the number of incidents rather than by patients. The Trust would be able to provide the number of incidents that occurred but is not able to confirm the number of patients that have absconded as the same patients may have absconded more than once.

To determine the number of patients that have absconded, staff would need to scrutinise each incident and compare to clinical records to identify if the same patient has absconded more than once. That being the case, 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.