

**Information Governance**

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31 January 2023

**Our reference: FOI DA4341**

I am responding to your request for information received 19 August 2022. I am sincerely 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,



Shuchi Joshi  
Information Governance Coordinator – Information Rights

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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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality  
of life and continuously improve our services.  
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**Chief Executive:** Paul Calaminus  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

**Request:**

**Question 1:** The number of unexpected deaths at the trust's mental health units (inpatients – both informal or formal (sectioned) patient). Please breakdown (a-e below) by year (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far) and if possible how many of each yearly total were under the age of 65.

**Question 1a:** The total number of unexpected deaths

Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Total
2018	1
2019	7
2020	8
2021	9
2022	9

**Question 1b:** The number of the unexpected deaths that progressed to a Serious Incident investigation

Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Total
2018	1
2019	7
2020	7
2021	9
2022	9

**Question 1c:** The number of unexpected deaths that were referred to a coroner

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1c of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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 them.*

The Trust is not the only source that refers inquests to the Coroner as other agencies also refer cases to the Coroner. The Trust does not hold the information requested and is therefore unable to disclose it to you.

**Question 1d:** The number of unexpected deaths that was classed as suicide

Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Total
2018	0
2019	0
2020	1
2021	0
2022	0



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Please note that these figures relate to deaths that have been ruled as a suicide by a Coroner following an inquest. Some inquests for the deaths noted in questions 1 and 2 have not yet been heard.

**Question 1e: The number of unexpected deaths that were not confirmed as suicide but were due to self-inflicted harm which led to the patient's death**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1e of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

The Trust does not hold the information requested and is therefore unable to disclose it to you.

**Question 2: The number of unexpected deaths of mental health/service users who were outpatients. Please breakdown (a-e below) by year (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far) and if possible how many of each yearly total were under the age of 65.**

**Question 2a: The total number of unexpected deaths**

Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Total
2018	156
2019	172
2020	235
2021	244
2022	159

**Question 2b: The number of the unexpected deaths that progressed to a Serious Incident investigation**

- Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Total
2018	42
2019	52
2020	60
2021	69
2022	47

**Question 2c: The number of unexpected deaths that were referred (whether by the trust or by another organisation) to a coroner**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2c of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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*(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 them.*

The Trust is not the only source that refers inquests to the Coroner and is not informed when other agencies refer cases to the Coroner. The Trust does not hold the information requested and is therefore unable to disclose it to you.

**Question 2d: The number of unexpected deaths that was classed as suicide**

Answer: Please see table below:

Year	Total
2018	28
2019	36
2020	39
2021	31
2022	15

Please note that these figures relate to deaths that have been ruled as a suicide by a Coroner following an inquest. Some inquests for the deaths noted in questions 1 and 2 have not yet been heard.

**Question 2e: The number of unexpected deaths that were not confirmed as suicides but were due to self-inflicted harm which led to the patient's death**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 2e of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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**Question 3: The total number of unexpected deaths of mental health patients who were discharged from the Trust's services 3 months or less before their death? Please breakdown (a-e below) by year (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far) and if possible how many of each yearly total were under the age of 65.**

**Question 3a: The total number of unexpected deaths**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3a of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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In order for the Trust to provide this information it would have to access patient records. We do not have a legal basis to access patient records in order to respond to a Freedom of Information Request. Therefore we are unable to provide a response.

**Question 3b: The number that progressed to a Serious Incident investigation**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3b of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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**Question 3c: The number of unexpected deaths that were referred (whether by the trust or by another organisation) to a coroner**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3c of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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**Question 3d: The number of unexpected deaths that was classed as suicide**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 3d of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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**Question 3e: The number of unexpected deaths that were not confirmed as suicides but were due to self-inflicted harm which led to the patient's death**



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