

Information Governance

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16 January 2024.

Our reference: FOI DA5124

I am responding to your request for information received 21 December 2023 which you clarified on 29 December 2023. 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,

Information Rights Coordinator

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

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We promise to work together creatively to: learn
'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request:

Question 1: How many patients of Black descent were sectioned under any sections of the Mental Health Act in the Luton and Dunstable area in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and 2023 (EXCLUDING sections that come about in conjunction with criminal offences- in other words just those sections which apply when a person is a danger to themselves or others). Black descent can include Caribbean, African and Mixed.

Clarification: Mixed groups would be:
White and Black Caribbean.
White and Black African.

Black groups would be:
Black, Black British: Caribbean or African.

Answer: Please see table below:

Year of Section	Number of Sections for patients of Black descent
2019	<5*
2020	0
2021	<5*
2022	5
2023	<5*

Assumptions:

Black is defined (using the national NHS England definition for ethnicities). Sections counted include both the initial sections used in a detention or subsequent consecutive sections (change of section)/

*Please note: The information you have requested relates to less than five individuals and therefore has the potential for those individuals to be identified. Therefore, we cannot provide this information which could contravene the Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR.

Question 2: How many patients of White descent were sectioned under Section 35 or 36 of the Mental Health Act in the Luton and Dunstable area in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and 2023. These can include White British and White other. (Excluding sections that come about in conjunction with criminal offences - in other words just those sections which apply when a person is a danger to themselves or others)

Clarification: White groups would be:
White, English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Answer: Please see table below:

Year of Section	Number of Sections for patient of White descent
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0



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Assumptions:

White is defined (using the national NHS England definition for ethnicities) as 'White - British', 'White - Irish', 'White - Any other background'.

Sections counted include both the initial sections used in a detention or subsequent consecutive sections (change of section).

Question 3: Which section [sic] in the Luton and Dunstable area are used most for Black people and which are used for White people.

Clarification: The time period is 2017-2020.

Mixed groups would be:

White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African

Black groups would be:

Black, Black British: Caribbean or African

White groups would be:

White, English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Answer: Please see table below:

Order of Usage	Section	Number of Sections for patients of Black descent in Luton and Dunstable	Section	Number of Sections for patients of White descent in Luton and Dunstable
1	s2	147	s2	649
2	s3	122	s3	346
3	s136	66	s136	324
4	s17A	35	s17A	61
5	s5(2)	48	s5(2)	210



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