

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.19.1077

Date Received: 17 May 2019

Information Requested:

I would like to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For each of the individual calendar years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

- 1) How many patients in each of the calendar years set out above, absconded from hospital (or their treatment facility), having been detained under section three of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Detained Absconds (Section 3 Patients)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
EPUT				93	184	277
NEPT	51	98	110	29		288
SEPT	86	58	55	17		216
Total	137	156	165	139	184	781

The data contained in the table above reflects those incidents in which the Section of the patient named in the incident has been specified as being Section 3. This is not a mandatory field when completing incident reports and could therefore be left unpopulated which would result in the incident not being included above.

An abscond on the Trusts incident reporting system is defined as any incident in which a patient is absent without leave for any period of time and as such, the numbers above will include incidents in which a patient has returned late from approved leave for any reason. To identify these and the reasons for their late return would involve a manual search through each incident which would exceed the 18 hours permitted. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit).*

In the majority of cases, it would only be 1 patient per incident; however, there will be some which involved multiple patients. To identify this, we would need to trawl manually through each incident, identifying the roles played by each named individual. For this reason, we would need to apply the 18 hour exemption for this additional information. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit).*

- 2) For each of the individual years set out above, during the course of the calendar year, how many patients were treated by your organisation, who had been detained under section three of the Mental Health Act 1983.

2014 – 891

2015 – 747

2016 – 681

2017 – 664

2018 – 662

- 3) For each of the individual years set out above, how many patients died, whilst being treated by your organisation under section three of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Section 3 Patient Deaths	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
EPUT				2	6	8
NEPT	4	1	1			6
SEPT	2	5	1	1		9
Grand Total	6	6	2	3	6	22

The above data includes deaths by all causes inclusive of patients who are on leave. The data contained in the table above reflects those incidents in which the Section of the patient named in the incident has been specified as being Section 3, this is not a mandatory field when completing incident reports and could therefore be left unpopulated which would result in the incident not being included above. To retrieve this data would require a manual trawl of those patient records which would exceed the time and cost limits, as set out in the Act. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit).*

- 4) For those patients that died, whilst being treated under section three of the Mental Health Act 1983, how many of those were deemed to be suicide.

Of the 22 incidents detailed in the response to Question 3, three incidents have been recorded by the Coroner as death by suicide.

*Exemption: Section 12 (Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit):

- (1) 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.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
 - (a) by one person, or
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated

Publication Scheme:

As part of the Freedom of Information Act all public organisations are required to proactively publish certain classes of information on a Publication Scheme. A publication scheme is a guide to the information that is held by the organisation. EPUT’s Publication Scheme is located on its Website at the following link <https://eput.nhs.uk/>