

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.20.1401

Date Received: 14 January 2020

Information Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide separate information for each of your hospitals/facilities providing mental health inpatient services:

Please Note:

The data provided in this response has been extracted from the Adverse Incident Reporting Systems for the former North Essex Partnership NHS Trust (NEP), the former South Essex NHS Foundation NHS Trust (SEPT) and Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT). NEP & SEPT merged on 01/04/2017 to create EPUT.

Prior to 2011 incidents in both NEP and SEPT were recorded on paper based systems. These records are archived in line with H&S requirements and based on the average number of reported incidents for the previous 10 years, it is estimated reviewing these 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).

* Please note the former NEPT incident reporting system did not record the specific nature of the leave granted to the patient and the data for the organisation therefore includes all absconds by patients detained under the Mental Health Act, not just those on leave.

1. Is the hospital smoke free (i.e. does not allow smoking anywhere on hospital grounds) and, if yes, what date did this happen?
NHS premises have had to be smoke free by law since April 2018.
2. How many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave for each separate calendar year since 2000 (or for each year you have information)?
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 in the table below will include incidents in which a patient has returned late from approved leave for any reason.

Detained Absconds whilst on leave (Number of Incidents)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Totals	86	235	235	191	202	206	161	221	222

The data in the above table represents the total number of incidents in which a patient detained under the Mental Health Act absconded (whilst on Escorted Leave, Ground Leave or Section 17 Leave*) and does not provide the individual number of patients. To specify the number of individual patients would require a manual trawl of each incident, identifying the roles played by each named individual. As this 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).

3. Of these, how many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave to have a cigarette or where the report mentions cigarettes for each separate calendar year since 2000 (or for each year you have information)?

Detained Absconds whilst on leave (Cigarettes mentioned in Description)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Totals	0	2	9	6	12	5	3	7	8	11

The data in the above table includes only incidents in which a detained patient has absconded (whilst on Escorted Leave, Ground Leave or Section 17 Leave*) in which the word 'cigarette' was referenced in the description of the submitted report. To identify if the patient has absconded whilst on leave for the purposes of having a cigarette would involve a manual trawl of each record detailed in the response to question 2. As this 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. When looking at all incident reports (not just those in which a patient absconded), how many incident reports mentioned "smoking", "smoke", "cigarette" or "lighter" a) in 2017, b) in 2018 and c) in 2019?

	2017	2018	2019
Total	760	628	510

The data in the table above has been extracted from the Adverse Incident Reporting Systems for the former North Essex Partnership NHS Trust (NEPT), the former South Essex NHS Foundation NHS Trust (SEPT) and Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT). NEPT & SEPT merged on 01/04/2017 to create EPUT. It includes any incident in which the words 'smoking', 'smoke', 'cigarette' or 'lighter' were referenced in the description of the submitted report.

Applied 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>