

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.20.1526

Date Received: 6th May 2020

Information Requested:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information about in-patient mental health care during coronavirus:

1. Within the in-patient facilities that fall under your remit, how many patients have contracted coronavirus and/or are suspected to have contracted coronavirus? Of that number, how many have died? Please provide data over the broadest timeframe you can, within the cost limits of the Freedom of Information Act. Please also provide dates of patients' deaths. If that would identify them, please provide the week they died or, if that would still identify them, the month. I understand that most patients with severe coronavirus will have been transferred to acute units, if that helps with your search. Please also provide me with a rough figure of the total number of in-patients your facilities support.

[Data on deaths of patients with COVID-19 within our inpatient services is published on our website at eput.nhs.uk. This data is also published on gov.uk.](#)

[The Trust is therefore applying Section 21 exemption of the Act \(Information accessible to applicant by other means\).](#)

2. Since 1 March, what policies/procedures have your in-patient facilities put in place to deal with coronavirus? Please provide dates of enactment. Such policies/procedures might include (but are not limited to): asking providers to release patients early where possible; cancelling leave for in-patients; suspending advocacy services; stopping legal hearings; preventing patient readmissions; separating patients (whether through segregation or other forms). In situations where patients were released early, please, if possible, provide a total number. I understand that some policies may have been enacted and then retracted, therefore please provide dates for when they came into effect and were undone. Please also provide documentation, where possible, for the relevant policies/procedures.

[The Trust has followed guidance from NHS England and NHS Improvement, the Department of Health and Social Care, and Public Health England with regards to changes to procedures, as published on their websites: gov.uk
england.nhs.uk](#)

3. Since 1 March, what guidance have you received from NHS England or the Department of Health and Social Care around how to manage coronavirus within in-patient mental health settings? Please provide the documentation you received, be it emails or formal documents, and the dates when you received it.

[See answer to question 2.](#)

If answering all of these questions would engage the cost limit, please prioritise the questions in sequential order (first most important, third least) and stop once the limit is engaged. Please also be advised that I have asked NHS England for the total number of deaths of mental health in-patients from coronavirus in England. Please note, I still expect an answer from yourselves on this.

Applied Exemptions:

Section 21 (Information accessible to applicant by other means):

- (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - (a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - (b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if on which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

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>