Information Requested:

1. For each of the past five calendar years (including this one to date) could you tell me how many serious case reviews and serious incident notifications have been opened/made by the Trust in relation to a current or former patient? Serious Case Reviews are owned by Essex Safeguarding Children’s Board not EPUT. The Trust has been advised that the Serious Case Review reports are currently published on the ESCB public website. The Trust is therefore applying Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means).

However in an effort to be helpful the link to the ESCB is https://www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/

Serious Incidents

- Since April 2017 – December 2017 - 103
- 2018 – 121
- 2019 – 111
- Jan 2020 – November 2020 - 77

Please note:

- These are not all deaths and are various incidents, which include amongst others serious self-harm, absconds, falls that result in a fracture requiring surgery, that meet serious incident reporting criteria
- As of 1 April 2017 North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) merged to form one new organisation known as Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT)

2. Please could you specify how many were current and how many former? The Trust is unable to provide this information as collating this would require a manual trawl of all relevant records that would exceed the time and cost limits set out in the Act. The Trust is therefore applying Section 12 of the Act (where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit)

3. Of the former patients, what was the length of time between the treatment they received from the Trust ending and their death? Please see response to Question 2

4. If possible, can you tell me their ages, genders and cause of death? Please see response to Question 2

5. What were conclusions from each review that has been conducted? Please see response to Question 2
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.

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 it is information 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