

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.21.2117
Date Received: 29 July 2021

Information Requested:

I would like to request a Freedom of Information in relation to the COVID-19 deaths following the NHS England's update on the 20 April 2020 in which they provide the breakdown of age and ethnicity which is helpful to the public which, of course, can be found here:- www.england.nhs.uk/statistics

But more information is required so that the public have a right to know:-

1. I would like to know how many people have died in your hospitals from Covid 19 alone? As in they died only due to Covid 19. I can see the figures you publish online, but these are deaths within 28 days of a positive covid test, so they could have died from other causes. I just want to know the exact figure from **1st February 2020 until the 28th July 2021** of people that have died due to Covid-19 and not anything else please.

It is not possible to provide this information from the Trust electronic systems. To collate this information would require a clinical audit 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).

However the Trust can give assurance that it is reporting the deaths as per the national CPNS (Covid-19 Patient Notification System) guidance as required and can confirm from 1st February 2020 to 28 July 2021 inclusive there have been a total of 45 Covid-19 related deaths (either direct or indirect cause) on our inpatient wards

2. The percentage and number of people with 'underlying health conditions' in the overall total.
Please see response to Question 1
 3. The percentage and number of those without health problems.
Please see response to Question 1
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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
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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>