

Freedom of Information Request

Reference Number: EPUT.FOI.24.3635
Date Received: 24 July 2024

Information Requested:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My request relates to the number of deaths of mental health patients whilst they were under the care of EPUT, from 21st January 2021 until 30th June 2024, or the most recent data you have.

For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to know the number of deaths of NHS mental health inpatients, where the definition of an inpatient is:

1. Those who died on an EPUT NHS mental health inpatient unit

The Trust believes that this information is publicly available on <https://eput.nhs.uk/media/2jhno5k5/eput-foi-24-3341.pdf> website and therefore is applying a Section 21 exemption of the Act (Information accessible to applicant by other means) for 2021-2023:

Term – Type of Death	Definition
<i>Expected Natural (EN1)</i>	Death that was expected to occur in an expected timeframe (e.g. terminal illness)
<i>Expected Natural (EN2)</i>	Death that was expected but not expected to happen within the timeframe (e.g. cancer but dies earlier than anticipated).
Expected Unnatural (EU)	Death that was expected but not from the cause expected or the timescale (e.g. misuse of drugs, eating disorder).
Unexpected Natural (UN1)	Death from a natural cause (e.g. sudden cardiac arrest).
Unexpected Natural (UN2)	Death from a natural cause but didn't need to be (e.g. alcohol, drug dependency).
Unexpected Unnatural (UU)	E.g. suicide, homicide.
Under determination	This term will be assigned to any patient deaths for which it has not yet been possible to assign a type of death until further information is obtained.
Unknown – unable to obtain information from coroner / other health care provider to determine type of death.	This term will be assigned to any patient deaths for which it has not been possible to ascertain a type of death despite requests for information from the coroner / other health care provider. Two requests for information will be made and, should no reply be received after two requests, the death will be recorded under this category.

2. Those who died while on leave from any of the above units

During the period 2021 to 2024, to establish if each patient died within six months of discharge from a mental health or learning disability service would involve a manual trawl. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

3. Those who died while absent without leave or having absconded from any of the above units

During the period 2021 to 2024, to establish if each patient died within six months of discharge from a mental health or learning disability service would involve a manual trawl. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

4. Those who died following transfer from any of the above units, including transfer to a physical health setting or to an out of area mental health service

During the period 2021 to 2024, to establish if each patient died within six months of discharge from a mental health or learning disability service would involve a manual trawl. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

5. Those who died while awaiting an assessment under the Mental Health Act or while waiting for a bed in a mental health inpatient unit following a clinical assessment of need

During the period 2021 to 2024, to establish if each patient died within six months of discharge from a mental health or learning disability service would involve a manual trawl. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

6. Those who died following any mental health assessment provided by EPUT where the decision was not to admit as an inpatient

During the period 2021 to 2024, to establish if each patient died within six months of discharge from a mental health or learning disability service would involve a manual trawl. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

7. Those who died up to 3 months following discharge from any of the above units

During the period 2021 to 2024, to establish if each patient died within six months of discharge from a mental health or learning disability service would involve a manual trawl. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: cost of compliance is excessive. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Exemptions

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

We are sorry that we have been unable to assist with your request on this occasion, but if we can be of assistance in the future please do not hesitate to contact us.

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>