

## Freedom of Information Request

**Reference Number:** EPUT.FOI.24.3341  
**Date Received:** 26<sup>th</sup> January 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 your care, in the last three years. It also relates to the number of people waiting for treatment.

For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to know the number of deaths, either while the individual was a patient on one of your mental health wards, or within three months of being discharged.

I would also like to know on the 1st of January, for the last three years, how many people had been waiting longer than 18 weeks for your services?

1. In the last 3 years, how many patients have died whilst being treated on one of your mental health units?

Period	Total MH inpatient deaths	EN1	EN2	UN1	UN2	UU	UD
2021	8	-	-	3	-	2	3
2022	14	1	1	6	-	5	1
2023	6	-	-	3	-	-	3

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.

Term – Type of Death	Definition
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. In the last 3 years, how many patients have died within three months of being discharged from one of your mental health units?

During the period 2021 to 2023, 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. For each year, in how many of those deaths do you know the cause of death?

Period	*Total for which confirmed cause of death known
2021	5
2022	13
2023	3

\* Note: these totals include provisional causes of death received from the Coroner where the death is subject to future inquest and from families

4. On the 1st January each year, for the last three years, how many people have been waiting longer than 18 weeks for your services?

Please break down the data as follows:

1st January 2021

930 patients waiting 18+ weeks for a first appointment across Mental Health services (Paris, Mobius, SystmOne)

1st January 2022

684 patients waiting 18+ weeks for a first appointment across Mental Health services (Paris, Mobius, SystmOne)

1st January 2023

835 patients waiting 18+ weeks for a first appointment across Mental Health services (Paris, Mobius, SystmOne)

---

**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>