

Date: Tuesday, 06th April 2021  
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 4660

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**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4660**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 19th March 2021.

Your request was as follows:

1. Please can you tell me how many Structured Judgment Reviews (SJRs) the trust has carried out since 1st January 2020 and how many of these reviews involved the death of a patient with hospital acquired covid.

If the trust does not use the SJR method, please can you give me the numbers for the equivalent method you use e.g. a Serious Incident.

For the avoidance of doubt, when I refer to hospital-acquired covid I am referring to both probable cases (a positive test 8-14 days after admission) and definite cases (testing positive 15 days or more after admission).

There were 136 deaths at the trust from 1st January 2020 to date (31/3/21). All patients are transferred from a referring hospital therefore all will have a detailed mortality review to ensure care prior to transfer has been reviewed. (This no includes those patients who were admitted with COVID 19 present on admission N=8)

There has been 133 reviews completed, there are 3 recent deaths which involved patients with hospital acquired Covid-19 that are awaiting Mortality review.

Below is the figures for probable (a positive test 8-14 days after admission) and definite cases (testing positive 15 days or more after admission):

Probable=5

Definite= 8

2. What was the outcome of the SJRs (or SIs, if the SJR system is not used). For each SJR please give a brief summary of outcome e.g. any particular processes that were changed, any conclusion as to what went wrong).

As we are in a national pandemic situation it has been difficult to identify specific areas which contributed to our patients acquiring COVID.

However, we have identified some common themes which increase the risks of infection:



- There were a number of patients and staff who did not have symptoms of COVID but were found to be positive; increasing the risk of transmission of COVID.
- Although staff movement was restricted as much as it was reasonably practical, due to COVID related staff absence there were times that staff were required to move wards.
- Some patients were in hospital for long periods of time.
- Due to the nature of the conditions that we treat, a number of patients did not comply with the required isolation requirements

#### Changes:

- All patients have been tested in line with national guidance. In fact, the trust has increased testing above national guidance so that all patients are tested every 5 days The Trust implemented the use of masks for staff before this was a national requirement
- Increased levels of hygiene across all areas
- Additional infection prevention training
- Implementation of routine staff testing
- Increased testing of staff and patients in the event of outbreaks

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

#### Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

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Further information can be found at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk) where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at [www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm)

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

**Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4660 in any future communications.**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**