

Date: Monday, 08th August 2022
Our Ref: MB/CM FOI 5268

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5268

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 18th July 2022.

Your request was as follows:

1) Please tell me in the reporting period 2021/22 the number of deaths that occurred at your Trust for which a case record review or investigation has been carried out which the provider judges as a result of the review or investigation were more likely than not to have been due to problems in the care provided to the patient, with an explanation of the methods used to assess this.

NOTE: By 'more likely than not' caused by care, I mean given a score of 3 (probably avoidable), 2 (strong evidence of avoidability) or 1 (definitely avoidable) on the inpatient structured judgement reviews (SJR), as assessed using the Royal College of Physicians avoidability of death criteria. If you do not use this system, please ignore this note.

Total of 64 deaths- April 21 - March 22.

1 death met the criteria stated, "more likely than not to have been due to problems in the care provided to the patient".

Investigation process with an explanation of the methods used to assess this.

Investigation process- Initial mortality review- followed by SJR as detailed in the Royal College of physicians guidance .

2) Please provide me with a brief overview of the FIRST FIVE incidents in 2021/22 identified in question 3 (i.e. cases of deaths that were more likely than not caused by problems in care), withholding any identifying information that would run into a Section 40 exemption.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust holds the information you have requested. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 40 (2) - Third Party Data

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), due to the minimal number of patients/staff identified as data requested is relating to 1-5 patients/staff members. In answering your query may lead to the undue stress of families and patients/staff as this information may still lead to patients/staff



being identified. Therefore this information has not been released for reasons of confidentiality.

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test. This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

3) Finally, can you please summarise what the Trust learnt and what actions have been taken as a result of the aforementioned cases/investigations.

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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.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at 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

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 5268 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

