

12 March 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
99 Waverley Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804954  
Email: [Hpft.foi@nhs.net](mailto:Hpft.foi@nhs.net)

Our Ref: FOI 3155

Thank you for your request concerning serious incidents involving ligature points.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. **Number of serious incidents involving ligature points, occurring within the trust grounds, in the following years; 2018-19 (to date) 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16**
2. **Number of patient deaths involving ligature points, occurring within the trust grounds, in the following years; 2018-19 (to date) 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16**
3. **Of the serious incidents listed above how many of the patients involved were under 18?**
4. **Of the patient deaths listed above how many of the patients involved were under 18?**

The numbers of incidents involving ligature anchor points are as follows and relate to local investigation:

Year	Anchor point	Under 18	Deaths	Serious Incident	Deaths under 18
2015	8	*	0	0	0
2016	6	*	*	*	0
2017	5	0	*	*	0
2018	8	*	0	0	0

\* Due to the small numbers involved we have applied Exemption Section 40 (2) to this part of your request. This is because entries of 5 or less are considered sufficiently small enough to be potentially identifiable data. On this basis, this information is exempt from the duty to publish.

5. **How much has the trust spent on specific programmes to tackle ligatures points in each of the following years; 2018-19 (to date) 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16**

The trust has invested significant funds in the anti-ligature environments, this includes:

- A new build at £45 million where a proportion of the spend was on anti-ligature fixtures and fittings
- Year on year refurbishment of services across the estate
- On-going maintenance, replacement of anti-ligature, fixtures and fittings
- On-going capital bids for replacement and upgrading of fixtures and fittings

The exact costs are not available as we do not have a specific budget allocated to anti-ligature. There is an element of anti-ligature spending within all our on-going ward maintenance/refurbishment but this cannot be broken down.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith**  
**Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

