

03 May 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI/03239

Thank you for your request concerning the details and severity of falls within our Trust.

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

1. The number of patient falls which have occurred in NHS hospitals within Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust for the years: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

We are a large Mental Health (MH) and Learning Disability (LD) Trust that covers four counties; Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Essex and Buckinghamshire with responsibility for Acute and Rehabilitation MH services, Children & Adolescent MH services, Community services, Older People MH services, LD Assessment & Treatment, LD Continuing Care with two LD Forensic Medium Secure Units and one LD Forensic Low Secure Unit.

Within our inpatient settings there have been a total of 4,591 actual reported patient falls in the past 10 calendar years i.e. from 2009 to 2018.

In addition, could you also provide:

2. A breakdown of the number of these falls per hospital, by the years above.

Please see attached spreadsheet.

a. A breakdown of the severity of these falls (e.g. low, medium, high)

Please see attached spreadsheet.

Please Note: there are 471 incidents where the harm severity has not been recorded. To supply this breakdown would involve reviewing each incident record and to carry out this task would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450¹.

Under section 12 of the FOIA a public authority does not have to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. It is estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to manually review each individual incident record to identify what harm was caused and the severity of the harm to retrospectively grade them i.e. 78.5 hours @ £25ph = £1,962.5.

¹ Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit has been applied

3. The number of patients who were never discharged after their fall - i.e. died before discharge.

a. Could you break this down both by the years above, and by the hospital where they had the fall.

This information is not recorded on our Datix Patient Safety reporting system. For us to provide this information would involve reviewing each of the 4,591 reported falls incidents and again this would invoke S12 – Cost of Compliance.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, 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](#).

