

15 July 2022

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

Tel: 01727 804954
Email: Hpft.foi@nhs.net

Our Ref: FOI/04346

Thank you for your request concerning learning from deaths.

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

Please may I receive the following data described in that guidance, on a monthly basis from the beginning of 2018 to the most recent month available:

1. The total number of in-patient deaths (including emergency department deaths)

Although there are no special exemptions in FOIA for information about the deceased, we consider the release of this level of breakdown into the monthly in-patient service user deaths to be sensitive and an actionable breach of confidence if disclosed. Therefore we have applied Section 41 due to the small numbers.

This is because once broken down into months the number of deaths would be 5 or less and 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.

However, under Section 16 – Duty to provide advice and assistance we are able to provide you with the annual number of deaths from the beginning of 2018 to date.

January to December	Number of Deaths
2018	34
2019	18
2020	31
2021	10
2022 (up to 07/07/2022)	6

Please Note: We do not operate an Emergency Department

2. The number of deaths subject to case record review

January to December	Number of Deaths (all deaths, not just inpatient)
2018	21
2019	74
2020	84
2021	71
2022 (up to 07/07/2022)	15

3. Of these deaths subjected to review, the number that were judged more likely than not to have been due to problems in care

It is not a requirement for the Trust to make a judgement as to whether the death was more likely than not to have been due to problems in care as per NHS Serious Incident Framework (2015) also the CQC Learning from Deaths guidance.

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](#).

