

FOI 2863

14th February 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1. The number of patients who died while on your NHS waiting list and have therefore been removed from the list due to their death or status as being deceased in 2025 to date.

Response:

Please see attachment 1 - Inpatients and Daycase Waits removed from Waiting List due to Death for years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (up to 13/01/25) by Gender

Please see attachment 2 - Inpatients and Daycase Waits removed from Waiting List due to Death for years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (up to 13/01/25) by Age-Band

Please see attachment 3 – Outpatient Referrals Discharged due to Death for years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (up to 13/01/25) by Gender

Please see attachment 4 - Outpatient Referrals Discharged due to Death for years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (up to 13/01/25) by Age-Band

Please see attachment 5 – Number of patients who died while on NHS Community Services waiting list and removed from list by gender/year.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

Whilst no assumption can be made that being on a waiting list in any way contributed to their cause of death, no one should be waiting excessive periods of time for health service treatment, particularly those in the final chapters of their lives. Our hospital waiting lists have been building up over many years, and a sustained period of investment and reform is required to improve the situation.

2. The number of patients who died while on your NHS waiting list, and have therefore been removed from the list due to their death or status as being deceased, broken down into the years 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.

Response:

Please see response to question 1.

3. If possible, I would also like a breakdown of ethnicity, religion, age and gender for every patient who died while on your NHS waiting list for each of these years, please.

- If you don't hold all of this data or if providing it would exceed costs, please provide as much information as possible - starting from the most recent year and working backwards.

Response:

Please see response to question 1. Please note that we have been unable to provide information broken down by ethnicity and religion.

4. Please also tell me the total number of people who are currently on your waiting list.

- If possible, please provide a breakdown of ethnicity and religion for these patients.

Response:

Please see attachment 6 in relation to Inpatient and Daycase Waiters by Regional Specialty WL position as at 31/12/24

Please see attachment 7 in relation to Consultant-Led Outpatients Waiters on First Appointment by Regional Specialty WL position as at 31/12/24

Please see attachment 8 in relation to Community Services waiters as at 31/12/2024

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net