

FOI 2882

31st January 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Under FOI, can I request information on the number of patients who have died while in the care of a mental health unit within the Trust area in the last 10 years, to include any patients who suffered injuries while a patient in the unit and later died as a result of those injuries.

Response:

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The Trust cannot provide the total number of patients as this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals and is considered exempt under section 40(2) of the Act which exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, among other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act. In this case, it is our belief that disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and therefore the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net